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Soviet Union

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GENERAL MIKHAYLOV ON INF, SOVIET MISSILES

OW101059 Tokyo NHK Television Network in Japanese 1223 GMT 9 Mar 84

[NHK correspondent Kenichi Iida's interview with Major General Konstantin Mikhaylov of the Soviet Ministry of Defense, conducted in Russian with Japanese subtitles -- date, place not given, questions and answers processed from Russian; recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] In the case of the United States, as you have just seen, State Department advisers or higher-ranking officials are always available for interviews. But this kind of opportunity is rather rare in the case of the Soviet Union, the other superpower. As we reported yesterday, reporter Iida of the NHK Foreign News Division is now in Moscow trying to interview top Soviet officials on the occasion of the installment of the new Chernenko leadership. Foreign reporters do not have much opportunity to interview them, unlike U.S. officials. Yesterday we presented an interview with Mr Yakovlev, one of the highest Soviet authorities on Soviet foreign policy. Today we received from Moscow a videotaped interview with Maj Gen Konstantin Mikhaylov of the Soviet Ministry of Defense. It is rare for a high-ranking Soviet military officer in active service to grant an exclusive interview. He is said to be a spokesman of the Soviet Armed Forces, with experience as a representative of the Soviet Ministry of Defense at the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

[Begin recording] [Iida] Please tell me what, in your opinion, was the main obstacle at these talks.

[Mikhaylov] The main obstacle was precisely the striving of the American side to achieve military superiority because their position was to achieve our disarmament, that is the elimination of our missiles, and conversely, the rearmament of the American side.

This was a position, a striving that was directed at having the potential of a nuclear first strike with a brief flight time at targets in Soviet territory, Finally, proceeding precisely from this, the U.S. position was not intended to achieve agreement. They strived to create an outward show at these talks and to achieve deployment of their missiles.

[Iida] Here in the West it is considered that if both INF and START talks are united, then perhaps the Soviet Union would return to the negotiating table. What do you think?

[Mikhaylov] Here I would like, with your permission, to cite a statement made quite recently by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko. In his preelection speech he said that by the deployment of missiles in Europe the Americans created obstacles not only to talks on nuclear weapons in Europe, but also strategic nuclear weapons.

The removal of these obstacles -- that is, a return to the position that existed before the beginning of deployment -- is the only path to working out mutually-acceptable solutions, and this would enable us to not implement our reciprocal measures. I think there is apparently no need to add to this very clear statement by the general secretary of our party.

[Iida] You know that your government stated that, in reply to the beginning of the deployment of American missiles last year, the USSR would deploy its tectical missiles on GDR and CSSR territory. Please explain more specifically and in detail which missiles these are, SS-21's or others, and how many missiles are intended.

[Mikhaylov] Well, you know that regarding the deployment of American missiles in Europe, the Soviet Union stated that it would be compelled to take appropriate reciprocal measures, including plans for deploying operational-tactical intermediate-range missiles. These are not tactical missiles, they are, as I said, operational-tactical long-range ones with a range which provides the creation [corrects himself] or solution of tasks connected with the deployment of American missiles. They are good missiles.

[Iida] Good ones?

[Mikhaylov] Good ones.

[Iida] Could you be more detailed, more specific?

[Mikhaylov] You know this is probably purely a technical aspect of the matter. I doubt whether anything new could be interesting. Anyway, this is precisely an equivalent to the missiles deployed in Europe.

[Iida] Could you explain in more detail and more specifically how many SS-20's are now deployed in the Far East?

[Mikhaylov] You probably know I could not answer you specifically, but I will tell you that these means precisely maintain the necessary parity of forces, nuclear forces, in this region. Naturally, we will attentively follow the development of the situation. I said that we are not striving for superiority. However, we will also not permit superiority over us. Therefore, the plans of the Americans to strengthen their nuclear potential in this region, including in a number of countries in this region, will naturally affect the development of the situation there. [end recording]

MOSCOW ADVOCATES NORDIC NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE

LD111824 Moscow in Finnish to Finland 1530 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Talk by Gennadiy Deynichenko entitled "Nuclear-Free Zones: A Path to Security"]

[Excerpts] In February I spend some days in Stockholm. During meetings with various groups of the Swedish antiwar movement, journalists, doctors, and clergy, on important observation impressed me: The Swedish public continues to feel great interest in a nuclear-free north and expects practical measures for its implementation. The words "nuclear-free zone" are often used in the foreign policy statements of Nordic governments. Nordic diplomats and prime ministers pay' attention to these words in talks.

But despite the fact that the seeds were sown into very fertile ground, they grew more quickly thousands of miles from the Nordic countries, in Latin America. That area gained nuclear-free status in 1967, with the signing by the Latin American states of the Tlatelolco Agreement, which declared nuclear weapons illegal on the whole of the continent. In fact this was the second event, for even earlier, in 1959, the deployment of nuclear weapons on Antarctica was banned.

In our century, which is filled with nuclear explosives, a nuclear-free zone promises considerable advantages and additional chances of survival. What is a nuclear-free zone, it is asked. It means a certain area on whhich there are no nuclear weapons of any kind. The states of such a zone pledge not to acquire nuclear weapons, not to produce them or deploy them on their territory.

The nuclear powers, in turn, announce they will respect such an undertaking and support their statement with guarantees and with the promise not to use nuclear weapons against the states of a nulcear-free zone.

Of course there are even more radical ways through which mankind could rid the world of nulcear weapons. The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries have proposed a clear action program: a refusal to use nuclear weapons first or to use force in international relations. The implementation of these proposals would turn nuclear warheads and missiles into worthless scrap. However, because these peace proposals are rejected by those Western circles banking on a policy of power, the establishment of nuclear-free zones may become a serious means in the struggle for a world without weapons. This is understood by extensive circles of public.

Regrettably, it is only in the north that the development does not progress further than discussions. On the other hand, the Nordic countries are most suitable for turning their territory into a nuclear-free zone. Of the five Nordic countries, two -- Finland and Sweden -- are not participants in military alliances and the armaments of their armies do not include nuclear bombs. Denmark and Norway are NATO members, but their policy requires that they refuse to deploy nuclear weapons on their territory in peacetime. Nor does Iceland have nuclear weapons. It would seem easy to agree on establishing the nuclear-free status of the north.

The situation in Europe, which has been greatly aggravated as a result of the deployment of American Pershing and cruise missiles, demands an activation of security measures. This touches directly on the interests of the Nordic peoples, too. The Danes, Norwegians and Icelanders are being increasingly closely linked with the militaristic plans of Washington and NATO, efforts are being made to catch them into the network through various kinds of agreements and to participate in NATO's military exercises and promote the deployment of new missiles by undermining gradually their policies aimed against the deployment of nuclear weapons and military bases.

The Swedes and Finns have not been forgotten either. The cruise missiles' flight paths drawn on the Pentagon maps go via Swedish and Finnish airspace. The dangers resulting from such a development of events is obvious. It is also clear that the plans for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone form an obstacle to the intentions of the imperialist aggressive circles. The representatives of the Pentagon and NATO oppose directly the nuclear-free zone and spread rumors about the alleged Soviet military threat, sow seeds of mistrust on the true goals of Soviet policy and take direct measures in order to undermine the traditional good-neighborly relations between the countries of this area and the Soviet Union. It can only be regretted that such actions receive support from certain circles in the Nordic countries.

On the other hand, the Soviet attitude toward the Nordic countries gives no cause for suspicions or mistrust. The Soviet Union bases its relations with its northern neighbors on the principles of equality and respect for sovereignty and is prepared to develop good-neighborly relations with them. The Soviet people understand and give their support to a Nordic nuclear-free zone. By giving its support to this idea the Soviet Union has often announced that the establishment of such a zone is desirable and possible. The Soviet side supports its statements by a readiness to discuss the wishes of our northern neighbors. We support the transfer of this question to the level of practical talks.

The Soviet attitude towards the idea of establishing nuclear-free zones was clearly expressed in the election speech of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Konstantin Chernenko.

The Soviet Union supports the measures against the nuclear threat and for the strengthening for peace in Europe and the whole world, Gennadiy Deynichenko writes.

SOLTAN REVIEWS OBSTACLES TO ARMS AGREEMENT

LD091546 Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The first days of March have been marked in many countries by massive antiwar demonstrations. People are getting more and more alarmed with the fact that a new round of the nuclear arms race starts in Europe. More from our observer Yuriy Soltan:

This alarm is not unfounded. After all, Europe could and still can take another road. At the talks with the United States in Geneva the Soviet Union advanced a proposal to make Europe free from nuclear arms, both medium-range and tactical. It was prepared to make compromises. For example it was ready to leave in its European part only 140 medium-range missiles, that is fewer than Britain and France have on NATO's side. The number of warheads on those missiles could also be equal. The number of aircraft capable of carrying such nuclear arms could also be reduced to the same denominator.

All these proposals were rejected by Washington, and last November the United States began deploying its Pershing II and cruise missiles in Western Europe even before the planned time. By so doing it began tilting the military blance in its favor, and not only in Europe, but all over the world. The threat emerged of a direct nuclear attack on Asian and African countries, which turned out to be within the range of action of new American missiles. This move by the United States, undermining the fundamentals of world peace, made the continuation of talks not only over European but also over strategic nuclear arms impossible.

The Soviet Union and other Warsaw Treaty countries were compelled to take countersteps. These steps are being taken both in Europe and in relation to the territory of the United States. But the Soviet Union has no desire to compete with anyone in the nuclear arms race. In his speech on 2 March in Moscow the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, Konstantin Chernenko, declared that the Soviet Union urges the two sides as before not to lose time and make the first major step towards fully freeing Europe from nuclear arms. The Soviet Union, Konstantin Chernenko underlined, has no intention to build up its security at the expense of others. It seeks equal security for all.

It's not the Soviet Union but the United States that has created obstacles for talks by deploying its new nuclear missiles. A way to attaining a mutually acceptable agreement lies in removing these obstacles and that simultaneously would make the countersteps being taken by the socialist countries unnecessary. To take part in negotiations for the sake of negotiations, while the United States would continue deploying its new first strike weapons in Western Europe, would mean to deceive the people. The Soviet Union has never taken part in such a dishonest game and will not be taking part in it in the future.

PATH TO U.S.-SOVIET ARMS TALKS OUTLINED

LD110116 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] And now a talk by Valentin Zorin:

A myth has long been circulated by the Washington administration among millions of Americans that has again been exposed in Moscow, the myth that the best way to conduct a dialogue with Moscow is, you see, to conduct it from positions of strength. When Pershing II missiles will be deployed in Europe, the men in Washington had been telling Americans, then the Soviet Union will become more pliable and progress will be achieved at the Geneva talks advantageous to the United States.

But the Soviet Union has time and again stated that such a concept has nothing in common with reality. After the United States began deploying its medium-range missiles in Europe the Soviet Union was forced to interrupt the Geneva talks. For quite a while now United States officials and the news media have been engaged in a propaganda game. They take out of the context of Soviet leaders' statements the parts that deal with the desirability for the Soviet Union of a dialogue with the United States, the Soviet readiness for constructive negotiations, and then claim that official Washington was right from the very beginning and that the Soviet Union will very soon agree to talks under United States pressure.

But in a recent speech in Moscow, General Secretary Konstantin Chernenko unequivocally stated that by deploying the missiles in Europe the Americans had created an obstacle to talks, not only on missiles in Europe but also on strategic nuclear weapons. Only by eliminating these obstacles, which would remove the need for Soviet counter-measures, will the road be paved for working out a mutually acceptable understanding. This is the situation clear and simple, and so it emerges that all this time influential members of the Washington administration have been misleading United States public opinion. The Soviet Union will not allow anyone to upset the existing balance of forces and will not permit the United States to gain any advantages.

Soviet-United States talks can take place only on the basis of recognizing equality and equal security for both sides. The top men of the Republican administration continue to profess peaceable intentions and no doubt having in mind that this is an election year, for to admit that they had failed in their hopes that the Soviet Union would bow to United States pressure can damage their prospects in the elections. Speaking of the Washington administration's peace rhetoric, Konstantin Chernenko emphasized that, throughout the world, attention was paid to the sharp contradiction between that rhetoric and what the current United States Administration had all along been saying, and what's most important, the contradiction between the rhetoric and what the current United States Administration has all along been doing in its relations with the Soviet Union.

Assurances of good intentions can be taken seriously only if they are backed by deeds, but official Washington today doesn't show a readiness for such deeds. Yet the possibilities exist. What would the United States lose, one may ask, if it followed the Soviet Union's example and pledged not to be the first to use nuclear weapons? What damage could be caused to United States interests and national security by a nuclear freeze at a time when the stockpiles of nuclear weapons exceed all sensible limits? Whose interests would be impaired by accepting the Soviet Union's proposal on measures to remove the threat to humanity of the possible use of chemical weapons? In a speech to constituents on the eve of last Sunday's elections to the Soviet Union's supreme legislative body, Konstantin Chernenko reaffirmed this country's goodwill and urged a turn to the better in Soviet-United States relations. We, he said, would desire such a change. It's now up to Washington.

U.S. CALLED ON TO ACT FROM POSITION OF REALISM

LD120036 Moscow World Service in English 2110 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] When the West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl met with President Reagan in Washington recently, the Western news media depicted the President's promise to work for a dialogue with the Soviet Union as one of the achievements of the meeting. Our commentary is by Spartak Beglov of the NOVOSTI [APN] press agency:

Promises of this kind can be taken seriously only if they are backed up by action -- say if the United States were to remove the obstacles to talks on medium-range and strategic nuclear missiles. But the United States and NATO have instead reaffirmed they will continue deploying new missiles in Western Europe. This month the second American battery in the Schwaebisch Gmuend area is to be equipped with nuclear Pershings; and in April, the British base at Greenham Common expects a second shipment of cruise missiles. Yet Washington, Bonn, and London are all well aware that the Soviet Union is not going to take part in negotiations that would serve as a screen for the deployment of American nuclear missiles in Europe. There is just no way to improve East-West relations if priority is given to military measures. Such a policy can only ensure a stalemate.

A way out of the present stalemate was suggested by the Warsaw Treaty countries and reaffirmed on 2d of this month in an election speech by the Soviet leader, Konstantin Chernenko. This is to reduce to a minimum the factor of military force in inter-European relations. If the Warsaw Treaty countries and the NATO countries can reach an agreement not to use either nuclear or conventional weapons against each other the way will be clear for mutual reductions in a framework of equality and like security. For this reason, Western politicians are doing the greatest damage to the interest of their countries when they hasten to dismiss the proposals of the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Treaty countries as nothing new. I refer to the proposals that the nuclear powers should pledge not to initiate the use of nuclear weapons, that NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization should conclude a treaty pledging not to use military force of any kind against each other, and that both sides should freeze and then reduce their military spending.

But can Western politicians change their thinking as this nuclear age demands and act not from positions of strength but from positions of political realism? This is the question of questions at the moment.

DETAILS OF TALLINN SCIENTISTS PEACE FORUM

PM091415 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 3

[Unnamed TASS correspondent report: "Nuclear Weapons Are the Common Enemy"]

[Text] Tallinn, 7 Mar -- There is no more important task for world scientists today than to avert a suicidal nuclear catastrophe. This was stated at a session of the Committee of Soviet Scientists For the Defense of Peace and Against the Nuclear Threat, which ended today in Tallinn.

Academician Ye. Velikhov, chairman of the committee and vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, addressed the scientists, public figures, and representatives of art and literature who attended this forum. The Soviet Union's scientists, he said, fully support the peace-loving foreign policy of our party and government. At the same time, the complexity of the contemporary situation makes it incumbent on every scientist to double and triple his efforts in the struggle for peace. Mankind is for the first time fully conscious and aware that the imperialist circles across the ocean, by putting their militarist aspirations into effect, are placing the world on the brink of destruction.

Reviewing the results of the committee's work since its creation, the scientists who addressed the session noted that, in a comparatively short space of time, fundamental research into the long-term, global, climatic, biological, and other consequences of nuclear war has been carried out. The results of this work have attracted the attention of broad sections of the scientific public, statesmen, and politicians of various countries. The truth about the pernicious consequences of nuclear war has become public knowledge.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD102203 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 84

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Aleksandr Yengenyevich Bovin, IZVESTIYA political observer; Nikolay Vladimirovich Shishlin, political observer; and Vladimir Yakovlevich Tsvetsov, All-Union Radio and television political observer]

[Text] [Tsvetov] Good day, comrades. The speech by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has aroused a wide-ranging response in the world and will continue to do so for a long time. This is quite logical. One Japanese newspaper, for example, drew what I consider to be a very correct conclusion. The world cannot ignore a speech by a Soviet leader since such a speech is always a political program, always containing specific proposals on the most important issues of the day. That is what the newspaper wrote. I do not think that one can fail to agree with such an evaluation. And I would like to devote our talk to certain questions raised in Comrade Chernenko's speech, in this political program of our party and government, to use the Japanese newspaper's expression. The crusade against communism proclaimed by the Reagan administration also includes measures intended to restrict the influence of the socialist camp on world affairs and measures intended to undermine the cohesion of the socialist countries. The efforts of the entire U.S. state machinery, ranging from the Congress to the Central Intelligence Agency, have been harnessed to achieving this goal. Vast amounts of money are being allocated for this. A propaganda campaign of an unprecedented scale is being waged. The socialist countries are countering these endeavours by strengthening their ranks and expanding their solidarity.

Soviet-Chinese Relations

[Shishlin] Now that world press organs are commenting animatedly on the speech by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, much attention is being given to the fact that the whole content of this speech stressed the continuity in Soviet foreign policy and the dynamism inherent therein. Evidence of this continuity is quite rightly seen in the efforts which our party and state are making to increase ties with the socialist countries and to strengthen their unity of action on the international arena. It is noteworthy, of course, that the talk now is not just about strengthening the socialist community, the Warsaw Treaty, and CEMA's activities. At issue is the strengthening of ties with all socialist countries. It is no coincidence that considerable attention is being given to those statements by the Soviet leader about how we see the future of Soviet-Chinese relations -- about the direction in which we want to work.

[Bovin] Generally speaking, the problems of Soviet-Chinese relations are one of the biggest problems both in the Soviet Union's foreign policy and in world politics, as a whole, if you like. This is because a very great deal depends on the nature of Soviet-Chinese relations. For at least the last 2 years we have been witnessing a gradual improvement in these relations. The process is fairly contradictory and complex. You know, comrades, that the Soviet-Chinese consultations will be continued on the 12th of the month. The next round...

[Shishlin interrupts] the fourth round.

[Bovin] ...The fourth round of Soviet-Chinese consultations will be held. The obstacles -- to use our Chinese partners' terminology -- the obstacles that from their point of view are hampering the normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations are being discussed at these consultations. It has to be said that no particular progress had yet been made at these consultations.

This is because under the guise of these obstacles our Chinese partners are putting forward demands that would be difficult for us to agree to and that affect the interests of third countries: for example, the withdrawal of our forces from Afghanistan, our relations with Vietnam and Kampuchea, and so on.

On the other hand, the process of filling out Soviet-Chinese relations with the living flesh and blood of real ties is taking place simultaneously with these consultations. For example, trade turnover and economic relations have increased considerably. The first swallows have been, for example, exchanged in the field of culture, sport -- the exchange of delegations and tourism. Generally speaking, this is unquestionably a positive thing. The Soviet-Chinese frontier has been quiet for a long time now. Agreements have been concluded on local cross-border trade. All this is unquestionably fully in accord with our wishes and the aspirations of our policy. The thesis about continuity can be seen very clearly here in fact. For very many years we have said that we favor a return to good relations with China. It seems to me that objective, geopolitical, and socioeconomic factors, for example, are working in favor of a normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations. I hope, comrades, that in this respect one can, generally speaking, take a realistically optimistic view of the future, as far as the Soviet-Chinese relations are concerned.

[Shishlin] Incidentally, there is also the raising of the level of contacts. We can say that this is taking place already. The level of the Chinese delegation during the mourning period that was held in our country was somewhat higher than ever before in similar situations. The general tone of the conversation between the Chinese representative, Wan Li, first vice premier of the State Council, and Comrade Aliyev, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, was friendly. Both sides stressed that they were interested in making progress at the Soviet-Chinese political consultations and in the development of business contacts in various spheres.

[Bovin] Speaking frankly, the normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations is of course a nightmare for the Americans. They will do their utmost to impede this, to prevent this from happening. They will use both political means and, especially, economic means.

[Shishlin] One can expect that some steps will be quite noticeable and clear in view of U.S. President Reagan's planned visit to China.

[Bovin] After all, the Americans look at it this way: If Soviet-Chinese relations improve, they argue, this will inevitably lead to a deterioration in, for example, Sino-U.S. relations and Sino-Japanese relations. But we have a completely different approach to this. We unquestionably favor good relations between the Soviet Union and China. But we are certainly not opposed to normal, good relations between China and, say, Japan, the United States, or any other state in the world.

[Tsvetov] In this way the normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations will inevitably, logically lead to a general improvement in the world situation.

[Bovin] Unquestionably. In Asia unquestionably -- and throughout the world, of course. This is because China is a great power and the Soviet Union is a great power. The nature of their relations has repercussions throughout the world. This will be a positive, a major positive factor in the development of world politics.

U.S. Policy With Allies

[Tsvetov] I would like to leave Asian affairs and turn to European affairs. It is not only with respect to the socialist camp and the Third World that the United States is following a policy of using force as a means of applying pressure.

Elements of this approach are manifesting themselves in the United States' policy towards its own partners, even though these relations are based on the watchword of anti-socialist solidarity. The point here is probably that the real ally of the United States in the West European countries and Japan is a restricted monopolistic oligarchy, which is linked to U.S. monopolies by transnational business. This restricted oligarchy operates in concert with the U.S. Administration, frequently sacrificing national interests and even the interests of the local bourgeoisie. It is here that differences emerge between the United States and its allies, and the United States also uses pressure sometimes in order to overcome them. The differences are focused at the moment on the question of turning West European countries and Japan into nuclear hostages of the United States. Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, in his speech to constituents, pointed out that leading figures in Western countries, and influential parties in those countries, do not blindly approve of American adventurism.

[Bovin] Of course America and Western Europe are associated in a social and economic community, in the wider sense of that word -- a community, naturally, of values and ideas -- and are united by class solidarity, and all the differences which emerge, and they do exist in reality, need to be considered against the following background. Insofar as they say that a Soviet threat exists -- this is a matter for their own conscience and understanding -- West Europeans need the American, as they say, the American umbrella. And it is under this umbrella that they are huddling. But, on the other hand, they are frightened by this uncontrolled adventuristic Reagan policy; his saber-rattling with loud words about war scares them. And so they try somehow to maneuver; on the one hand to preserve the values of detente, which are of very great significance for Western Europe, and on the other hand to retain loyalty for their, so to speak, big brother across the ocean. Let us take now the visit of Kohl to the United States. All the talks revolved around this. The logic is approximately this: We have remained in solidarity with you, we have allowed you to deliver the missiles, we have agreed to the dual decision, therefore you cannot have any grudges against us. And now listen to us; let's be a bit more calm. Let's not break with the Soviet Union; let's have dialogue, talks, and so on. Despite the contradictory nature of West European politics, it nonetheless seems to me that the pressure from Western Europe on America inclines towards greater political moderation, greater realism; they nudge -- at least they try to nudge -- Reagan away from a cold war and toward detente, even though they do this in a way which is far from always consistent; but nevertheless, as far as I see it, they are doing it.

European Security

[Shishlin] After Kohl's visit to the United States, they are beginning to wonder what, in practical terms, can be brought into the talks on limiting nuclear weapons in Europe and on limiting and reducing strategic weapons, whose doors were slammed shut as a result of the obstructionist tactics of the United States, for which the only aim consisted of deploying its nuclear missiles on the territory of Western Europe. Perhaps difference [protivorechiye] is too strong a word, but definite differences -- I'll repeat the word all the same -- on questions concerning the approach to the problem of European security, between the United States and their allies, have become evident.

[Bovin] We can now see an interesting phenomenon where France and the FRG are actively discussing the question of joint security, that is, they are trying to a certain extent to put Europe in a position of ensuring its own security, or at any rate, to slightly weaken the bonds which tie them with the U.S. It is true that they all, of course, stress: We will not survive without America. We need American assistance. We need the American umbrella. But nonetheless they are trying to become more independent in the area of defense too. To a certain extent this is an objective process because if one talks about tendencies, then of course the role of Western Europe in world politics, as I see it, now lags behind objective possibilities, and sometimes it finds itself in a kind of ambiguous position in connection with the policy of the United States. But let's take Lebanon as an example: What happened there? The Americans involved the British.

[Shishlin interrupts] The Italians...

[Bovin] ... The French and the Italians in this matter. They involved them in the Multinational Forces. Then the Americans announced that they were withdrawing their forces to ships, while the others were made to look like fools, virtually, because they cannot remain there without the Americans. The Italians didn't withdraw their forces right away. The French, in order to save face, hung on and on until they could no longer hang on, and now they are also withdrawing their contingents. Of course this does not make relations healthier. On the one hand there are both political and economic differences. But on the other hand, class solidarity will always be at work, and I do not think that these differences are able to lead to any severe rupture. They do not allow this to happen.

[Shishlin] It is characteristic that in Western Europe at the moment, more than else, all kinds of ideas and considerations are being put forward. They are not talking merely of a resumption of dialogue with the Soviet Union, with the socialist countries. The dialogue never stopped; they are talking of a kind of liberation of dialogue, of expanding its framework, of giving it a more constructively-based character. We are living in a real world, the art of politics is all the same -- the art of the possible. But to think that NATO will literally collapse tomorrow and that all ties between Western Europe and the United States will be severed, this is but a fanciful idea and nobody is aiming for such a thing.

Mideast Developments

[Tsvetov] At the moment events in Lebanon are taking place under the accompaniment of explosions in another war, the Iran-Iraq war. Insofar as the United States depends significantly less than Western Europe and Japan upon oil from that region, it is not excluded that the United States' actions in that region may cause additional friction in the Western alliance.

[Shishlin] The most frightening thing is that everybody is suffering losses there. Iran of course is suffering from the loss of human lives and the expenditure of material resources. Iraq too, of course, is suffering large losses in terms of human lives and expenditure of material resources. Of course the states of the Persian Gulf are losing out, and neither Western Europe nor Japan are winners here. The United States -- I would not want at this time to make use of any sharp formulations -- is once again thinking about the use of military means, the use of force in order to safeguard its own interests there, somehow. I am reminded of a long-standing and important idea, a Soviet one, when the Soviet Union proposed from the platform of the party congress to the United States, and not only the United States but all members of the world community, that agreement be reached on the security of sea, air, and other international routes. This is what one should be thinking aobut, even more so since we see clearly that the borders of localized conflicts are being constantly and dangerously eroded.

[Bovin] Are becoming eroded, of course.

[Shishlin] And of course we would not want the Iran-Iraq war to lead to a new, very acute, dramatic disagreement between the Soviet Union and the United States, between the Soviet Union and any other countries. This region is very close to us.

[Tsvetov] However, the United States is undertaking such actions in the area of the Persian Gulf which may lead to a new complication in Soviet-American relations if, of course, the American actions are not stopped.

The TASS statement just published points out that the United States is creating in the Persian Gulf region a serious threat to peace and international security since it has amassed dozens of its warships there and is carrying out a non-stop patrol in the air. The TASS statement goes on to say that through demonstrating on a massive scale its military might, the United States wants to reaffirm its imperialist claims to the Persian Gulf as yet another region of so-called vital American interests. Following the defeat it suffered in Lebanon, the United States is even more persistently seeking the slightest opportunity of interfering in the Iran-Iraq conflict. After all, the broadening of the conflict will divert the Arabs even more from resisting the American-Israeli aggression in Lebaon, will divide them even more since some Arab countries support Iraq and others Iran. American interference in the conflict will enable the United States to cut off Syria and the Lebanese national patriotic forces from the rear and it might finally lead to the creation of conditions under which, wishing to rehabilitate itself for its failure in Lebanon, the United States will try to impose on the countries involved in the conflict, or any one of the countries involved in it, a regime welcome to imperialism. In this way, as you, Nikolay Vladimirovich, said, the limits of the local conflict are indeed dangerously eroding.

East-West Ties, Disarmament

[Bovin] I, for instance, am convinced that if the general state of affairs regarding East-West relations were normal, let's say if they were on the level of detente, it would be much easier to resolve these local conflicts -- to sort them out -- than it is now because the general atmosphere of cold war, which is becoming more intense, entails as a consequence the fact that these local knots of conflict are becoming more and more tight, and, therefore, in fighting for detente, for the restoration of normal East-West relations, we are fighting for the general atmosphere which could be of assistance also in settling local conflicts.

[Shishlin] By the way, the thought put forward by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko in his preelection speech regarding the working out of a sort of code of conduct on the part of nuclear, and not just nuclear, powers, is directed towards this. And I would like to say at the same time that these proposals are themselves, of course, open to supplementation, open to some new ideas. The whole point of this sort of conduct code, code of restraint, is actually the introduction of trust, of which there is so little in the present-day international relations. I absolutely agree with Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich here; if these relations were straightened out, they would of course open up possibilities -- which are quite incalculable at the moment -- of influencing and extinguishing current conflicts, of settling them fairly, and of carrying out preventive measures of a sort with regard to the possible conflicts.

[Tsvetov] The Soviet Union has put forward also the idea of a mutual freeze of nuclear arsenals, the arsenals of the Soviet Union and the United States, and there has been quite a broad response to this idea in the whole world, as we all know. An organization has even appeared in the United States, Voters for a Nuclear Freeze. This is natural since a sufficient quantity of nuclear arms has been collected to annihilate mankind several times over. This is why the freeze of nuclear weapons would not create the slightest danger as far as either the USSR or the United States is concerned and it would, at the same time, facilitate an understanding on the reduction of nuclear arsenals.

[Bovin] From my point of view, this is one of the most important practical measures which could very positively influence the world situation, now. We face the fact of the arms race. More and more weapons are being accumulated. So let us discuss this in a logical manner.

If we want to reverse this process, to reduce this level, we must call a halt. We must call a halt and reverse the process. Our proposal on this score is very simple. We are saying: Let's call a halt before the fire breaks out. After that we can assess the situation, so to speak, and reach agreement. But what are the Americans doing? Their idea is as follows: On the one hand they want to reach agreement on the reduction of armaments and on the other hand they want to continue the armaments buildup. Unfortunately technologists and engineers work much more rapidly than diplomats. While the diplomats discuss one type or kind of weapon, three or four new ones make their appearance. As a result, the talks are outflanked. Therefore in order to create an opportunity for a calm discussion of all these problems, a halt must really be called. But the Americans do not want to do this. Why? They are saying that such a halt would freeze the Soviet Union's superiority. That is their idea. But this idea is fundamentally false. This is because it has been proved a thousand times that a global, world equilibrium exists; a global parity exists if you take the situation as a whole. But by manipulating individual types of armament the Americans are trying to prove that such a parity does not exist. Therefore we cannot accept a freeze at the present time. At least that is what the Reagan administration is saying at the moment.

[Shishlin] In addition to this argument which you mentioned, Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich, the present U.S. Administration is asking how this can be verified. It has to be pointed out that the Soviet Union is no less interested in verification than the United States. But the Soviet Union is against talk about verification being used for a purpose which is quite the reverse of what is understood by the word verification. Nevertheless, Vladimir Yakovlevich, I think that although the idea of a freeze was put forward some time ago and is not new. It is very much alive and very fruitful.

[Tsvetov] I want to continue your argument about the need to call a halt in order to progress subsequently to disarmament by moving on the proposal made by the socialist Warsaw Pact countries to the NATO member states for talks about freezing and reducing military spending. In his speech to his constituents Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, said: It is difficult to think of any problem of importance for the strengthening of peace on which the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries have not submitted specific and realistic proposals in recent years. The present appeal to the NATO members is one of these proposals. This initiative was put forward by the socialist countries in January 1983 at the Prague conference of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact Organization. The party and state leaders of the Warsaw Pact countries endorsed the initiative in June last year during their meeting in Moscow. And now this initiative has been presented to the NATO members in the form of a proposal which indicates specific measures relating to the freezing and reduction of military spending.

[Bovin] Yes, it has been presented in a more specific form.

[Shishlin] It has also been brought up before, even at the UN. Reductions either by equal percentages or by equal amounts were proposed in the budgets. Yes. Now the need is for the sides to sit down around the negotiating table and to exchange views. But they must quite simply accept the need to call a halt and to reverse the process.

[Tsvetov] You know, I was going through the pages of the newspapers for January 1983, when the Prague Consultative Committee set forth this idea, and at that time the press responded to the proposal as follows: The democratic press in Western Europe pointed out that there was not a single point in the proposal that would contain even a veiled threat to the interests of anyone whatsoever, whether in Europe or in North America.

The bourgeois press pointed out the following: The proposal of the socialist countries could become the starting point for a second round of international detente. Finally, I went through the pages of the developing countries' newspapers. They noted with satisfaction that the socialist countries' proposal inspired the hope of a broadening of the possibilities for their socioeconomic development, since after a reduction of military budgets funds should be directed precisely to socioeconomic development.

[Bovin] Yes, in this respect I should like to say precisely this; that when we talk of disarmament it is of course a very broad problem. After all, it is really impossible to normalize the world political situation between the East and West without disarmament. Nor is a stable situation possible in another area, between North and South, without disarmament. Finally, the third point is that without disarmament we shall scarcely cope with the ecological problems, which are becoming ever more acute throughout the whole world and now require colossal funds for their solution. In all three areas and everywhere that one may look, we encounter just one thought -- namely that enough is enough and it is necessary to halt the arms race and to begin disarming. It is in this direction that our initiatives have again and again been operating.

[Tsvetov] It follows from the calculations of one of the Japanese institutes engaged in studying questions of foreign policy that with the money that is spent on making one fighter-bomber aircraft it would be possible to build a 300-bed hospital that was equipped with the very latest in medical technology or else to carry out irrigation work on an area of land one-third of the size of Portugal.

[Shishlin] To sum up what has been said in recent weeks in the Soviet Union at the highest political level, confirmed by our state's practical actions, we are entitled to say that in reality Soviet foreign policy has been and remains clearly oriented towards the goals of peace and the goals of consolidating peaceful cooperation and strengthening universal security, and I emphasize universal security. The Soviet Union does not seek one-sided benefits for itself. It is not striving to consolidate its own security at the expense of the security of any other country, whether it be the security of the United States of that of any other power. We want security to attend the life of each country, whether it be large, medium-sized or small. This is a policy that accords with the interests and aspirations of the peoples and it is a policy for which there must be a future.

[Tsvetov] Here I would like to bring our talk to an end. Many thanks, Nikolay Vladimirovich and Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich! Till our next meeting!

U.S.-USSR RELATIONS; USTINOV IN INDIA; LEBANON

LD102251 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 10 Mar 84

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by APN political observer Gennadiy Gerasimov]

[Text] As you have seen, European concerns can be seen through the midst of the [pre-Lenten] carnival festivity. The main concern is for peace, and the cause of European alarm is external, from outside; the cause lies in American policy. Last Wednesday Lawrence Eagleburger, U.S. assistant secretary of state, made a statement that caused a sensation. He said that Western Europe and the United States look upon the world in different ways, and that this cast in the eye, so to speak, threatens the NATO alliance itself.

The main difference amounts to attitudes toward the Soviet Union. Simplifying things somewhat, one can say that Western Europe recognizes the Soviet Union as a reality, as a neighbor with whom it is not merely possible but necesssary to reach agreement and to cooperate.

In Western Europe -- which is closer to the Soviet Union and sees it better -- in Western Europe people believe less in the Soviet threat than they do in the United States, where self-inflicted poisoning with its own anti-Soviet propaganda has acquired a scale that is politically dangerous.

The wide antimissile movement in the countries of Western Europe indeed shows that American missiles there are feared more than the farfetched Soviet threat. Here I want to give a quotation from the French newspaper LE MONDE, dealing with this issue raised by Eagleburger, the different views of the world taken in Europe and America. It's a long quote, but an interesting one.

The newspaper writes: Being reactionary in the full meaning of the word in domestic policy, the Reagan regime is equally reactionary in its foreign policy. Even the most conservative European governments find it difficult to believe that you only have to condemn the so-called empire of evil and it will disappear; or that one can coerce one's enemy into obedience by means of excessive rearming on one's own part. And they will scarcely believe that the fires raging in the Third World are in the main explained away by the hand of Moscow.

That is what the Paris LE MONDE newspaper writes. And it is writing this now, after the change in tone in what is said to the Soviet side by the White House. The change in tone took place on 16 January, before the start of the campaign for Reagan's reelection as American President. It has long been observed -- as long ago as the last century -- that in a leap year, the year of the election, American Presidents are guided not so much by interests of state as by the interests of their reelection. From this point of view the change in tone means that the White House has recognized the fact that sharp anti-Sovietism can lose votes. It would seem that it is not just Western Europe that looks at the world in a way different from that of official Washington, but that many American voters also do so.

And so last week Reagan again makes a speech to the evangelical people in the town of Columbus, Ohio, the same audience to which he made his pronouncements about the empire of evil a year ago. On this occasion the speaker says that he will not merely hold talks with the godless communists, he will pray for them. This is very considerate of him, but even prayers, nonetheless, are only words -- and words are not enough.

Two American senators have just returned from Moscow. They told Reagan -- and he invited them to the White House so he could listen to them -- they told him that he must take initiatives to show that he seriously desires an improvement in American-Soviet relations. But, according to reports, the President did not promise them anything.

In the meantime many possibilities exist for backing up assurances about American good intentions with real actions. For example: One might reach agreement on freezing nuclear arsenals, or begin talks between the NATO and the Warsaw Pact countries on agreeing mutually not to increase military expenditure and subsequently to reduce it. This is the latest proposal of the Warsaw Pact countries made on 5 March.

Our country would like to achieve a positive breakthrough in Soviet-American relations, and in the whole international situation. This was spoken about by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko in his speech of 2 March. He spoke about the responsibility of state leaders to the present and future generations.

Nuclear weapons do not divide people into those who have no god and those who pray to God. These weapons do not distinguish between capitalist and Communist.

And here is the main thing required of the nuclear powers: They must recognize that there are common interests, that there is a common interest in survival; they must give priority to this interest and make subordinate to it objectively inevitable elements and aspects of rivalry. Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko proposed six such norms of relations, a kind of peace code. Taken altogether these norms would guarantee that humankind will continue and would guarantee the peaceful coexistence of the ideological rivals.

The Soviet ideas have encountered widespread favorable response. For example, among the norms we proposed that we should not be the first to use nuclear weapons. From this stem the following norms -- not to be the first to use these weapons against nonnuclear countries. This is Indira Gandhi's comment: A statement by other countries that they will not use nuclear weapons would be a good start. Some Western states, however, which possess nuclear weapons, have not supported this particular proposal.

As you know, over the past few days the official visit to India of Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov has been taking place, and it is no secret that questions of military cooperation were being resolved. India is concerned at the intensification of tension on its borders and at the militarization of the Indian Ocean. And the reason lies in the American policy of global interference under the pretext that no matter where you look on the map so-called vital interests of the United States can be seen. Now, for example, there are dozens of warships under the Stars and Stipes that have been drawn up in the area of the Persian Gulf. Look at the way THE LONDON TIMES responded to this latest Pentagon adventure: The translation of the headline is "Goodby Beirut, Hello Gulf" -- meaning the Persian Gulf.

As far as the farewell to Beirut is concerned the newspaper is not quite right. This city remains in the sights of the large-caliber guns of the battleship New Jersey. These guns have become almost the symbol of American policy. It used to be called gunboat diplomacy. Now, perhaps, it is time to speak of battleship diplomacy. LIFE magazine, from which this picture has been taken, writes about the difficult life of the crew, which has not been home for a long time. Just think: Already 65 children have been born who have not yet seen their fathers who are on military duty. The magazine does not report the number of Lebanese children who have already been killed by the shells of the battleship New Jersey, but it quotes the words of its captain, Richard Milligan: "Our 16-inch guns can hit a lot of innocent people."

Battleship diplomacy did not work. Last Monday the Lebanese Cabinet annulled the 17 May agreement with Israel which was imposed upon Lebanon with the active involvement of the United States. On 12 March the second stage of the conference on national reconciliation in Lebanon is to begin in the Swiss town of Lausanne.

Because of historical reasons this country has a very variegated population -- one might say a mixed population, the only thing is that it does not want to mix. For centuries the many communities have been living separately from each other.

U.S., USSR PEACE POLICIES, INITIATIVES ANALYZED

PM091201 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 8 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[Vadim Nekrasov article under the rubric "Journalist's Reflections"; "Real Actions Are Needed"]

[Text] It may be said that the entire history of the 20th century since the unforgettable days of the Great October Revolution confirms indisputably and unambiguously that socialism has been and remains the staunchest defender of sound principles in international relations and the firmest bastion and most reliable guardian of peace. Both in times of tumult and in periods of calmer developments, the CPSU and the Soviet state follow unswervingly the Leninist precept and mandate of all the people -- to protect peace and safeguard our motherland's security above all else. In the present situation, when the international atmosphere has deteriorated seriously through the extreme reactionary imperialist forces' striving to slow down social progress, the USSR, in conjunction with all the peace-loving forces of the world, is continuing the resolute struggle to safeguard the peoples' security and to prevent nuclear catastrophe. "Expressing the Soviet people's profoundest aspirations," the CPSU Central Committee address to all voters and citizens of our country in connection with the USSR Supreme Soviet elections says, "the party and the government will do everything to avert the threat of war and to preserve peace for this and future generations."

Communists' words and deeds are indissolubly fused into a single whole.

Vivid new confirmation of this was provided by the speech by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at a meeting with voters 2 March, by the program of actions that it set out aimed at consolidating peace, limiting the arms race, and developing international cooperation, and by the Soviet Union's specific proposals addressed to all peoples and to the other states of the world, which can be implemented if goodwill exists.

The Land of the Soviets is a convinced opponent of the resolution of international disputes by means of force. It proceeds from the premise that, even under present day conditions, states with different social systems have real potential for achieving mutually beneficial accords and for a serious discussion of problems whose solution would improve the situation in the world, correct the dangerous tendency in world affairs, and restore them to the course of normal development.

"The curbing of the nuclear arms race," the CPSU Central Committee general secretary's speech stresses, "is, naturally, of crucial significance for peace and the peoples' security." This means a Europe which has chosen to free itself of nuclear weapons both medium-range and tactical, rejecting jointly the imperial ambitions that have infected influential circles in Washington. This means a breakthrough in Soviet-U.S. relations determined by real deeds which demonstrate the two sides' love of peace and leading via a mutual nuclear arms freeze by the United States and the USSR to accords on a substantial reduction in those arms. This means the adoption by the nuclear-weapons states of norms of conduct in relations among themselves which would ultimately promote the reduction of such weapons to the point of complete elimination. Such is the prospect of international development which would allow the implementation of these and other measures firmly based on the principle of equality and identical security. Such a prospect cannot fail to impress the peoples, who are tired of the arms race and of being anxious for their own future. This is why the ideas and proposals set out in Moscow corresponding to the urgent demand of the time for new initiatives and a significant impetus toward change, both of which are needed in the present dangerous atmosphere, have become the subject of universal attention and interest these days and of discussions launched in the cities and villages of Europe, Asia, Africa, and other continents.

It is a question of serious, thoughtful discussions and arguments based on the realities of the prevailing situation and not on preconceived propaganda theses. Because under the existing conditions the realization is speading increasingly broadly throughout the world that the times require not naive optimism, nor the passive anticipation of change, but decisive actions for the salvation of mankind's future itself.

As for the Soviet Union, its viewpoint was set out in the precise and uncompromising phrase: "The complexity of the situation obliges us to double and triple our efforts in pursuing a policy of peace and international cooperation."

The persuasiveness of the appeal for the triumph of reason heard from the Soviet capital is intensified many times over by a sober and comprehensive analysis of the situation which has taken shape. Indeed, given the whole danger of the situation, it is obvious that imperalism has not seized and, for all the intensify of its efforts, is incapable of seizing the historic initiative from socialism. Despite the adventurist militarist circles' increased aggressiveness, the conclusion of the CPSU and the world communist movement that war is not inevitable, a conclusion based on the experience of international development, still retains its force. No imperialist rearmament programs can shake the firm resolve of the USSR and the other socialist countries to preserve the military and political equilibrium that has been established in the world. The situation has another characteristic of equal importance noted in K.U. Chernenko's speech: The danger of the imperialist policy of the uninterrupted fueling of tension is obvious. The greater the threat it poses to human civilization, the more active the strength of man's self-preservation instinct becomes.

Indignation is growing in West Europe at the actions of those political circles which are turning it into the hostage of the transatlantic military's plans to launch a nuclear conflict. By no means have all leading figures in West or influential political parties there expressed solidarity with the U.S. Administration's adventurism. It is also causing alarm among a considerable portion of the U.S. public. As THE PHILADLPHIA INQUIRER writes, a growing number of Americans are asking themselves: "What is there to quarrel about with the Soviet Union?"

Broad public circles in the West are "beginning to doubt the logic of a military strategy which threatens to destroy what it is called upon to defend," H.-J. Vogel, chairman of the West German democrats' parliamentary faction [as published], says. Fear is growing that U.S. policy may plunge the world into nuclear war. The outcome of all this anxiety and indignation is the increasing politicization of the populace in the Western countries, that is, an involvement in foreign policy issues and a desire to force governments to pursue a course toward the normalization of the situation.

No one, of course, is underestimating the difficulties existing on such a path. The strength of the opposition to realism in world politics possessed by monopoly capital's reactionary elite is great. The opponents of peaceful cooperation among the peoples do not always act openly and, encountering firm opposition, they also resort to circuitous maneuvers. Under these conditions, how is one to view the U.S. Administration's recent ostensibly peace-loving statements, for example, or its appeals to Moscow to begin "dialogue", which, however contains no practical proposals. Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speech contains a clear reply to this question: "Statements about its good intentions can only be taken seriously if they are backed up by real actions. The Soviet Union has always been in favor of seeking mutually acceptable practical solutions to specific questions to the benefit of both countries and of peace."

In the United States, as indeed throughout the world, the realization is growing that enforced militarization and the worsening of the international situation have not brought and will not bring the United States military superiority or political success. Nevertheless, the Pentagon's course toward the excessive increasing of military spending continues to be implemented despite all appeals for prudence and moderation.

The situation demands that vigilance be maintained. It forces the Soviet leadership to pay the most serious attention to the further strengthening of defense and to take constant care to ensure the adequate security of our country and its friends and allies. The preservation and consolidation of the fraternal socialist countries' solidarity also acquire a special significance and important new aspect under these conditions.

Assessing the powerful appeal recently heard from Moscow for reason and for a responsible approach to be shown toward the very fundamental problems now facing mankind, foreign observers treat on its merits what they call the Soviet land's wisdom, perspicacity, flexibility and persistence in the struggle to implement noble tasks that have been set, and firmness and confidence in its strength and potential for defending world peace and averting a nuclear catastrophe.

WEINBERGER ON INCREASING NATO MILITARY FRAMEWORK

LD091430 Moscow TASS in English 1344 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Washington March 9 TASS -- The Reagan administration intends to continue deploying new U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger at a press conference that was transmitted to Europe by the USIA with the use of the "Worldnet" television communication system. The missile deployment imposed by the United States on its allies in NATO and aimed at undermining the military balance in Europe has resulted in the disruption of the Soviet-American talks in Geneva. The U.S. defense secretary precluded any initiatives on the part of the U.S.A. that would make the resumption of these talks possible.

Caspar Weinberger declared for further intensification of NATO's military preparations. He said, specifically, that the United States and other member countries of the alliance should maintain the maximum might in Europe and also increase this might to the utmost. The head of the Pentagon demanded from the West European allies a further increase of the military spending, first of all for the strengthening of conventional armed forces of the bloc. The United States had earlier imposed on its West European allies an obligation to increase the military spending by at least three per cent a year. these expenditures are a heavy burden on the economy of West European countries and undermine their competitiveness on the world market.

Caspar Weinberger also declared for the widening of the geographic framework of NATO's actions, supporting the thesis of forward-line defense which envisages the use of NATO armed forces in various areas of the world for purposes of "protection of vital interests of the West". We must draw up plans of possible actions outside the European region which would be aimed at the protection of Europe, a more effective protection than that along the borders of European NATO member countries, he said.

CHARACTERISTICS OF USSR, NATO MILITARY POLICIES

LD111826 Moscow TASS in English 1614 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS -- TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev writes:

Among all embracing peace initiatives of socialist countries aimed at the curbing of the arms race, at the normalisation of the international relations, the Soviet Union's call to all nuclear powers to assume the commitment to refrain from the first use of nuclear weapons is particularly important and topical in the present situation.

The deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles with a flight time of 6-12 minutes to important targets in the USSR territory has been commenced in the FRG, Britain and Italy. This means that in a crisis situation vitally important decisions will have to be taken in a matter of minutes.

NATO recently made amendments to its strategy of "flexible reacting", the amendment of nuclear weapons at the earliest stage of any conflict.

U.S. military, among them NATO Supreme Allied Commander -- Europe General Bernard Rogers now advance very often "theoretical" substantiations of "conscious escalations of military operations". They stress that the characteristic feature of NATO's strategy of "flexible reacting" is the readiness to be the first to use nuclear weapons.

All these actions and doctrines of NATO aggravate tension in the world, heighten distrust between the opposing military alliances, enhance the likelihood of nuclear war, also as a result of an error, miscalculation, because of faults in the communication system.

The Soviet Union's commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons has become a historic event in international relations, an event that inspired hope in the hearts of millions of people on earth.

In conditions of the intensification of the aggressiveness of the United States military policy it was not easy for the Soviet Union to assume unilateral obligation to refrain from the first use of nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union soberly assesses the adventuristic nature of the Pentagon's military doctrines and the state of the offensive nuclear potential of the USA.

The Soviet Union took this step showing its good will, its lofty responsibility not only for the destinies of its people, but also for the future of entire mankind.

Peoples of the whole world have the right to expect that they in the White House will finally realise what a grave threat is presented by the United States striving to achieve military superiority, also superiority in the flight time of nuclear missiles, how dangerous the doctrines of waging a "victorious war" with dealing the first nuclear strike are.

With the present state of the detection systems, the combat readiness of the Soviet Union's strategic nuclear weapon systems the United States will be unable to deal a disarming strike at socialist countries. The aggressor will not avoid the crushing reply strike.

The norms of conduct of nuclear powers, specifically renunciation of the first use of nuclear weapons, which were set out by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Konstantin Chernenko are logical and simple. Not a single sober-minded honest person on Earth can doubt their stabilising character, their purpose of consolidating peace.

The Soviet Union placed these principles at the basis of its policy and is prepared to agree with other nuclear powers on joint recognition of these norms and on making them obligatory.

It is now up to Washington and its NATO allies.

'SPIRALLING' NATO ARMS BUDGET 'DISRUPTS BALANCE'

LD112036 Moscow TASS in English 2005 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS -- TASS news analyst Leonid Ponomarev writes:

Recommendations for NATO countries issued recently by the British Atlantic committee contain proposals to increase considerably the share of military spending of West European countries, to widen production of conventional armaments in NATO framework on the basis of contemporary technology. Summing up the conclusions of the committee, THE NEW YORK TIMES writes today that Britain and other NATO countries must do more to share with the United States the burden that it bears outside north Western Europe.

So it has been said bluntly that the United States' West European partners in NATO must shell out more in order to embark on the next, higher spiral of the arms race. Why so? For the reason that back in 1978 the United States imposed on NATO countries the decision on an automatic increase of military spending by three percent a year in real terms. And how the matters were in practice? According to the London FINANCIAL TIMES, for instance, the military spending of NATO countries headed by the United States in 1982 alone increased by 11-12 percent in real terms.

This means that the military spending increased four times more than the directory three percent. The comparison of these figures showed that the United States leaders and their partners in NATO first of all are misleading the public of their countries when they speak about the so-called insignificant increase of military spending, second, that the appetites of the Pentagon and NATO in the arms race are unlimited, as we see.

Under the pretext of the quest for "new strategy" for NATO countries, another automatic increase of the military budget is now being imposed on West European peoples, this time by four percent. The actual spending will undoubtedly be much higher.

The main idea of the recommendation of military-political experts from the British Atlantic committee is the need for NATO to build up at the [word indistinct] (?of) conventional armaments to bring them to the level of "effective deterrence" so as then to embark on the reduction of nuclear potentials of the East and the West. So we are thus faced with the notorious formula of the Reagan administration: reduction through the build up of all types of armaments.

But Washington and other NATO countries are spiraling the arms race not in order to scrap the armaments later but in order to disrupt the existing balance of forces between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty countries and to achieve military superiority over countries of the socialist community.

Practice shows that sped up militarisation and the aggravation of the international situation have not resulted in the United States' military superiority and political successes. They only lead to the heightening of the criticism of Washington's military course all over the world.

NATO'S 'NEOCOLONIALIST' RECOMMENDATIONS SPURNED

LD112035 Moscow TASS in English 1812 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS -- TASS news analyst Leonid Semenov writes:

Commenting on the recently issued report of the British Atlantic committee which recommend that the NATO bloc should more actively interfere into affairs beyond the North Atlantic region, the newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES writes today that, in the committee's opinion, West European countries should exert greater efforts in defending their interests in the Persian Gulf, in the Indian Ocean and in Africa.

Such recommendations are the outright expression of the desire of the imperialist and neo-colonialist forces to regain, cost what it may, the lost privileges in the world, without stopping even at the use of military force. The British Atlantic committee is the British section of the NATO association which affiliates military-political experts of Britain, supporters of the build up of the NATO's military might and undisguised interference into affairs of other peoples.

The Persian Gulf where American and British combatant ships are coursing, has now become an area of heightened activity of imperialist and neo-colonialist forces.

Fanning up hullabaloo around the need of defending oil communications in the region, the U.S. and NATO leaders actually seek to consolidate their military presence on a permanent basis contrary to the vital interests of the peoples of the region and adjacent countries. Realisation of U.S. aggressive plans of using big contingents of armed forces, specifically in the northern part of the Indian Ocean, of involving other NATO countries into these ventures leads to a sharp aggravation of the situation, disruption of economic and trade links between peoples. The U.S. strategic doctrine envisages the use of military contingents in the Persian Gulf and other waters in case of appearance of any crisis of the American-Iranian type, and also with the aim of supporting U.S. forces in the Middle East which are stationed there as a result of the Camp David agreements and Israeli intervention in Lebanon.

Facts show that the United States and its NATO allies are not giving up power methods in solution of international problems, that they disregard the interests of other peoples, their right to be independent and to live in peace.

SOVIET CDE ENVOY GRINEVSKIY INTERVIEWED

PM121012 Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET in Swedish 8 Mar 84 p 11

[Undated interview with chief Soviet Stockholm Conference delegate Oleg Grinevskiy: "Treaties Banning Aggression and Nuclear Arms"]

[Text] Behind all the speeches at the Stockholm conference there is a very acute political conflict about what the conference's future course should be, chief Soviet delegate Oleg Grinevskiy said. The Soviet Union and the socialist countries want first to reach agreement on more wide-ranging confidence-building measures -- agreements not to be the first to use nuclear arms, and a nonaggression treaty.

If any of these proposals were to be adopted the situation in Europe would be radically altered, Ambassador Grinevskiy said. But he stressed that the Soviet Union wants to pursue both proposals simultaneously.

Underlying the Soviet proposal is the Soviet Union's effort to avert the threat of nuclear intervention by the West. NATO, it is well known, has left open the possibility that a superior attack from the East using conventional weapons could be countered with nuclear arms. By offering a nonaggression treaty at the same time the Soviet Union wants to assure the West that there is no threat of "conventional aggression" from the East, among other things.

Treaties banning the first use of nuclear arms and a nonaggression pact are the things to which the East gives the highest priority.

"Alongside these comprehensive measures we are prepared to discuss other problems, including measures setting limits on and covering advance notification of military activity," Ambassador Grinevskiy said, adding that the Soviet Union is primarily concerned with the more comprehensive issues and not the more limited measures.

The West has objected that the principle of nonaggression is already built into the UN Charter and the CSCE Final Act, the so-called Helsinki document of 1975. "We are not proposing a repetition of the UN Charter or the CSCE Final Act," O. Grinevskiy said. "We are not out to get a declaration but a treaty. In these documents we will specify the rules governing a ban on the use of force. Give them a more binding treaty-like form. Since the beginning of the 'eighties the world has entered a dangerous period because the United States has attempted to upset the balance of strength in Europe. The United States has not refrained from being the first to use force. I believe that the whole body of world public opinion needs a clear answer to the question of what the U.S. intentions are and what the Americans think about the growing threat in the world."

Ambassador Grinevskiy pointed out that the UN Charter came into existence at a time when neither the Warsaw Pact nor NATO existed, when it was impossible to predict what the situation would look like decades later.

"If they are not satisfied with the content of our proposal, or with its form, when they say that our proposal is declaratory, you can ask yourself whether they do not have lawyers and the international expertise to formulate these principles in a form which suits the NATO countries. We do not consider that we have a monopoly in this respect. If they like the principle but are opposed to the form they could arrive at more binding formulations than we do.

"But it is of course not only the form that is the issue," Grinevskiy said. "It is always possible to find some formulation. Either you are against the use of force or you are not. That is why it is merely rhetoric when the West dismisses our proposals as declaratory and as a repetition of the UN Charter."

The proposal put forward by NATO 24 January contained six points on confidence- and security-building measures. To begin with, it was condemned by the Soviet Union. It was thought that the West would be able to watch "through the keyhole" Soviet military activities on Soviet soil, while the United States (whose territory is not affected by the conference) would escape checks on, for example, its observance of the agreements it has entered into.

Ambassador Grinevskiy reminded me that the mandate given to the Stockholm conference at the CSCE follow-up conference in Madrid last year was that it should discuss measures which would reduce the risk of military confrontation in Europe.

"The problem is that NATO is trying to limit the Madrid mandate and reduce the possibilities open to the conference. They want to limit themselves only to discussing technical questions," Grinevskiy said, complaining that they are unwilling to discuss the most important issue of all, the threat of a nuclear war in Europe.

In the Western view the Soviet Union and the rest of the Warsaw Pact have not presented any official proposals in documentary form.

Ambassador Grinevskiy does not accept this view: "All diplomatic conferences have their rules and norms. Each participant state decides for itself when and in what form the proposals are made. Our proposals were contained in the speech which the Soviet Union's foreign minister made, and I would say that that is a very weighty way of making proposals." Under no circumstances could anyone be unaware that our proposals are on the table, nor is anyone saying that they should not be discussed."

WPC'S CHANDRA ON STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE TASKS

LD111030 Moscow TASS in English 0906 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Stockholm March 11 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Vukolov reports:

An international conference-dialogue on the problems of security and disarmament in Europe opened here today. The forum is being attended by about a hundred representatives of political parties, trade-union and religious organisations, and mass anti-war movements from 37 countries, mainly European ones.

The conference-dialogue is being held by the international liaison forum of peace forces in which political parties and anti-war movements of many states cooperate. The conference is to consider matters aimed at further increasing their activity with a view to promoting successful work of the current Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe.

In the present complex international situation which has become strained in connection with the started deployment of new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, it is particularly essential to enlist the efforts of all progressive and peace forces to remove the threat of a world war, Romesh Chandra, president of the World Peace Council (WPC), has stated in an interview with the TASS correspondent. Although the participants in the conference represent various political parties and currents, trade-union organisations, they are brought together by the common striving to preserve peace and peoples' security, to promote better understanding and stronger cooperation between countries. It is precisely the attainment of these goals that the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe is called upon to ensure.

The success of the European conference in Helsinki, the WPC president pointed out, became possible also due to broad support on the part of the peace forces, the peace movement and the progressive public of many states. These forces can also make their contribution to the successful work of the important political forum which is now being held in the Swedish capital, Romesh Chandra stressed.

PRAVDA CHIEF HEADS SOVIET GROUP TO CDE DIALOGUE

LD101116 Moscow TASS in English 1101 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Stockholm March 10 TASS-- TASS correspondent Nikolay Vukolov reports:

A delegation of the Soviet public came here today to participate in the international conference-dialogue on problems of security and disarmament in Europe. The delegation is led by the chairman of the tee [as received] of the peace forces, editor in chief of the newspaper PRAVDA Viktor Afanasyev.

The conference-dialogue is held by the international liaison forum of the peace forces, with representatives of different political parties and mass anti-war movements of many countries cooperating within its framework.

The conference-dialogue in Stockholm will discuss questions of further envigoration of actions of political and public forces coming out for peace, detente and disarmament, with a view of promoting successful work of the Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe which is under way here.

HARTMAN-GROMYKO TALK PRODUCES NO 'SOBER STANDS'

LD111718 Moscow TASS in English 1659 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS -- Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, USSR foreign minister, today received U.S. Ambassador in the USSR Arthur Hartman at the latter's request.

There was an exchange of opinions on questions of Soviet-American relations and some topical international problems. In this connection Andrey Gromyko called the ambassador's attention to the March 2 speech of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Konstantin Chernenko which contained the principled assessment of the present-day world situation and the state of Soviet-American relations, which set out a concrete programme of measures whose implementation could set the beginning of a constructive change in relations between the USSR and the USA and the international situation as a whole.

It did not follow from the pronouncements of Ambassador Arthur Hartman, also on questions related to the situation in Europe, that the United States Administration assumed more sober stands meeting the interests of the consolidation of peace.

Andrey Gromyko stressed that the Soviet side will be judging the United States' readiness to act in this direction by its practical deeds.

'BREAKTHROUGH' IN U.S.-USSR TIES URGED

PM102010 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 84 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "To Preserve Peace!"]

[Text] By casting their votes at the USSR Supreme Soviet elections for the candidates of the bloc of Communists and nonparty people, Soviet people have voted unanimously for a peace-loving foreign policy. To maintain and preserve peace -- such is one of the basic behests to our party and the Soviet state by V.I. Lenin. In the very first days of Great October, remarking that Soviet power had begun the struggle for peace, he warned: "This struggle will be difficult and stubborn. International imperialism is mobilizing all its forces against us, but, however great the forces of international imperialism, our chances are highly favorable...."

The Communist Party and the Soviet state are bearing aloft the Leninist banner of peace and the peoples' friendship. It is the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community which are the source of the large-scale peace initiatives aimed at delivering mankind from the threat of nuclear war.

It is difficult to cite a problem so important for the strengthening of peace -- Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, said in his speech at the meeting of Moscow's Kuybyshevskiy Electoral Okrug voters -- on which the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries have not made specific, realistic proposals in recent years. Our countries' initiatives are meeting with increasingly broad support from other states.

The curbing of the nuclear arms race is of key significance for peace and the peoples' security. The USSR's position on this issue is clear. Our country is opposed to competition in the buildup of nuclear arsenals.

The USSR has been and remains a consistent advocate of the prohibition and destruction of all types of nuclear weapon. Soviet proposals on this score were long ago submitted for examination by the relevant international forums, but the discussion of these proposals is being obstructed by the United States and its allies.

The Soviet Union is, as before, in favor of ridding Europe of nuclear weapons -- both medium-range and tactical. It is not the Soviet Union's fault that the American side transformed the Geneva talks into a cloak concealing an arms race and a cold war policy and its course of turning a number of West European states into a launch site for the Pentagon, which indeed led to the breakdown of the talks. The Soviet Union has no intention of taking part in such a game calculated to deceive the peoples.

Enormous interest was aroused in all corners of the planet by the proposals formulated in Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speech to the voters that relations between the powers possessing nuclear weapons be subordinated to definite standards and principles. The Soviet Union has made these peace-loving principles the foundation of its foreign policy. It is ready at any time to negotiate with the other nuclear powers on the joint recognition of such standards and on making them obligatory. Soviet people are sure that this would meet the radical interests of all peoples.

The fraternal countries of socialism, and the activeness, purposefulness, and coordination of their foreign policy actions are a powerful factor of universal peace. The Soviet Union has invariably sought and will seek to broaden cooperation with all the socialist states.

The socialist countries' determination to promote in every possible way the strengthening of international peace and security and the improvement of the political climate in Europe and throughout the world found a new manifestation in the Warsaw Pact states' recent proposal to the NATO states to hold talks on not increasing and on reducing military expenditure. In the conditions of growing international tension the implementation of the measures proposed by Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Poland, Romania, the USSR, and Czechoslovakia would be particularly important.

The desire to seek decisions and measures which really do lead to peace is an immutable characteristic of socialist foreign policy. The Soviet Union has always advocated the search for mutually acceptable practical solutions for the specific issues arising between countries. This also fully applies to the USSR's relations with the United States. The Soviet Union favors a real breakthrough [perelom] in Soviet-American relations, as indeed in the entire international situation. We would welcome such a breakthrough. It is up to Washington. Unfortunately, the latter is doing nothing practical in this respect. Everything is limited to mere verbal assurances from the American Administration concerning its good intentions. But real actions, not words, are required for the maintenance and consolidation of peace. But these actions on the part of the American side are not to be seen.

The aspiration for peace and tranquility remains the innermost aspiration of hundreds of millions of people in all corners of the world. It is finding expression in the massive antiwar, antimissile demonstrations which have become an inalienable characteristic of the political life of the modern world.

Detente, which is persistently upheld by the socialist countries, the liberated states, the members of the Nonaligned Movement, and peace-loving social forces, has put down deep roots. The cause of peaceful international cooperation has many active adherents everywhere. All this inspires the confidence that the course of events can again ultimately be channeled toward the consolidation of peace.

The Communist Party and our state are devoting their persistent efforts to the resolution of this noble task. Soviet people know: We are indebted for all that we have, for all that we take pride in -- a free and mighty motherland, its high prestige in the international arena, the substantial peaceful life of the people -- we are indebted for all this to the intensive, creative labor of our people. Soviet people, while maintaining constant vigilance in regard to the designs and intrigues of imperialism, are filled with the determination to do everything necessary to ensure that our motherland continues to fulfill with honor its great mission as the defender of peace.

The USSR's peace-loving foreign policy course meets with the approval and support of the broad international public, of all progressive mankind. To preserve peace -- this is the common will of the peoples of the planet.

U.S. AIMS 'COMPLETELY CLEAR' IN DEFENSE SPENDING

LD091506 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[Tomas Kolesnichenko "Commentator's Column": "Washington's Words and Deeds"]

[Text] The "budget season" has started in America. In contrast with other seasons, it is the "rainiest" season, with "winds" and "storms" blowing mainly in the vicinity of the U.S. Congress.

And so now, in order to get out of the U.S. legislators the fantastic sum of $313.4 billion for military expenditures in the next fiscal year, 1985, Pentagon chief C. Weinberger and General J. Vessey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, have launched a real attack on congressmen and especially on members of the House Appropriations Committee's Defense Subcommittee. They have requested that "not a single cent" be cut from the record-level "golden rain" destined for the Pentagon reservoirs, since all these dollars are, they claim, necessary to repulse the "threat from the East." Furthermore, Weinberger has confirmed the growing global ambitions of the United States as a "world gendarme." "We must," he said, "be prepared to conduct prolonged military operations in various parts of the globe." In his turn, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has revealed far-reaching plans by the military, stressing that the Pentagon attaches "overriding priority" to the "modernization of strategic nuclear forces." "We also give great attention" he noted highly significantly, "to the modernization of our chemical ammunition arsenals."

Neither the storms on Capitol Hill nor the "cold war" winds blown by the Pentagon during the "budget season" are anything unusual. This is how it has always been. One thing, however, is different: All this is now taking place against the background of peace-loving declarations by the U.S. Administration which is calling for a "dialogue" with the Soviet Union and against the background of a propaganda campaign conducted by Washington, centering on the White House's "good intentions" and its passionate desire to start "real talks" in reducing arms and to normalize the international situation.

If this is so, then why, may we ask, does the Pentagon need more than $300 billion in fiscal 1985? Actually, the question is clearly rhetorical. The military budget itself, which the administration has submitted to Congress, attests that it is difficult to reconcile its words and its deeds. The White House speaks of "dialogue" and "talks," while the Pentagon is attempting to implement a fruitless adventurous course aimed at stepping up the arms race and attaining military superiority over the Soviet Union.

This is why the U.S. military needs the additional billions. Primarily to build up the might of such offensive weapons as, for example, the Trident II nuclear missiles, the B-1 bombers, the new MX ICBM's, and other strike means of the U.S. nuclear "triad."

It is typical that the head of the military department has confirmed the U.S. intention to continue the development of Pershing II and cruise missiles in West Europe and has asked for additional funds for this purpose.

In a nutshell, if anyone still had any doubts about the fact that Washington is playing a double game, the new U.S. military budget makes everything completely clear. On the one hand we have words. On the other, deeds. And the difference between the one and the other is the same as the difference between one cent and $300 billion.

PORTION OF U.S. ENERGY BUDGET FOR ARMS NOTED

PM091507 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Mar 84 First Edition p 3

[TASS correspondent A. Lyutyy report under the general heading: "Whence Comes the Threat"]

[Text] Washington, 6 Mar -- Over half the U.S. Department of Energy's budget, which it is planned will total $15.1 billion for fiscal 1985, will be spent on developing, manufacturing, and testing the latest types of nuclear weapons. This was reported by Energy Secretary D. Hodel at hearings in one of the subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committee.

As became clear from his speech in order to guarantee the uninterrupted buildup of nuclear arsenals the department intends to sharply increase the volume of production of enriched plutonium, which is the main element in such munitions. With this aim in view, D. Hodel said, it is planned to build a new nuclear reactor at Portsmouth (Ohio) and also to increase the capacity of other nuclear reactors under his department's jurisdiction.

Commenting on D. Hodel's remarks, specialists stress that the Energy Department was long ago turned into an appendage of the Pentagon. This nominally "civilian" department develops numerous programs for the production of warheads and other weapon components. However, special attention is devoted to the department by the Reagan administration, which has sharply increased its appropriations for extending and increasing the capacities of the nuclear arms production complex scattered over the whole of the United States. Fifteen types of various warheads, including warheads for submarine-launched Trident missiles, Minutemen III strategic missiles, and first-strike MX ICBM's, come off the production lines of these enterprises. According to Pentagon strategists, the U.S. arsenal must increase by another 17,000 units of nuclear armaments in the next decade.

SOVIET-CHINESE POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS BEGIN

PRC Envoy Qian Arrives

LD111236 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Qian Qichen, special envoy of the PRC Government and PRC vice minister of foreign affairs, with a group of advisers and experts, arrived in Moscow today for Soviet-Chinese political consultations.

The Chinese representatives were met at the airport by Ilichev, special envoy of USSR Government and deputy minister of foreign affairs, and other official representatives. Also present was Yang Shouzheng, PRC ambassador to the USSR.

The next round of the Soviet-Chinese political consultations will start on 12 March.

Talks Commence

NC120958 Paris AFP in English 0943 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow, March 12 (AFP) -- China and the Soviet Union met here today for a fourth round of hush-hush talks on ending their 20-year rift. The talks will be conducted respectively by Vice Foreign Ministers Qian Qichen and Leonid Ilichev and are a continuation of other sessions in October 1982, March 1983 and last October held alternately in Beijing and Moscow.

China sees three major obstacles to normalisation: the presence of Soviet troops near the Chinese border in Mongolia and Soviet Siberia, Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and Soviet support for Vietnam in Cambodia.

The Kremlin has refused to budge on any of these issues which it regards as overlapping the purely bilateral context. However Soviet Communist Party Leader Konstantin Chernenko, in a speech ten days ago, said normalisation with China could "contribute to increasing the role of socialism in international affairs". But he said Moscow refused to "conclude agreements against the interests of third party countries".

Soviet media have recently hinted at official concern over a possible new U.S.-China honeymoon, a month ahead of a visit to Beijing by President Ronald Reagan. The weekly NEW TIMES accused the United States of trying to drag China into its "orbit" by exploiting China's interest in developing its economic ties with Washington. The Soviet Communist Party organ, PRAVDA today renewed its attacks on the United States saying it was seeking to establish strategic "footholds" in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Nothing spectacular is expected to emerge from this new round of Sino-Soviet talks scheduled to last about two weeks. But diplomats here said the first three rounds of consultations resulted in more relaxed bilateral relations.

This development is reflected in increased trade, sport and cultural exchanges and is expected to be further enhanced by the planned visit to Beijing in May of Soviet First Vice-Premier [Deputy Chairman] for economic affairs Ivan Arkhipov.

U.S. OBSTRUCTS NORMALIZATION OF USSR-PRC TIES

OW111325 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1430 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Glebov commentary]

[Excerpts] In his speech to Soviet voters on 2 March, Comrade Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stated that normalization of relations between the USSR and the PRC certainly would help enhance the role of socialism in the international scene. Specifically because of this, the USSR has gone all out to improve the Soviet-Chinese relations and restore the traditional friendship between the Soviet and Chinese peoples.

(?Everybody) clearly realizes that the imperialists were overjoyed by the deterioration in the Soviet-Chinese relations. It was their intention to aggravate and deepen the split between the USSR and the PRC. Even the United States' recognition of the PRC was intended to go against the USSR and socialism. In its letter to the CPC Central Committee, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the United States stressed that there should not be any illusion as to why the Carter administration wanted to establish U.S.-PRC diplomatic relations. The Carter authorities were convinced that they could use China to serve their aggressive policy of opposing the socialist countries, the national liberation forces, and the developing countries.

In obstructing the normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations, one of the major means employed by the United States is to intimidate China with the myth of a Soviet threat. To convince China that such a threat is real, the imperialists have resorted to all means possible. For example, they fabricated the story they told China about the so-called [word indistinct] Soviet scheme to attack China; and also fabricated the mistaken idea that Soviet-Chinese friendship is objectively impossible. Dear China listeners, the USSR has never attacked China, nor has it attacked any other country.

Dear Chinese listeners, just think about this: For what purpose should the United States arm Taiwan's Chiang Kai-shek clique? For what purpose should the United States use all possible means to obstruct Taiwan's return to its motherland?

Recently, certain positive tendencies have emerged in Soviet-Chinese relations. Comrade Chernenko pointed out in his 2 March speech that the (?gradual) restoration of mutually beneficial ties in the economic, cultural, scientific, and other spheres is useful for both countries. The Soviet leader added that this has greatly displeased those people who wanted to benefit from the aggravation of Soviet-Chinese relations, but that this is the interest of our two countries and the cause of improving the world situation.

PRC TO ISSUE SECOND EDITION OF LENIN WORKS

LD091751 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 9 Mar 84

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] RENMIN RIBAO reports a decision by the CPC Central Committee to issue a second edition of the complete works of Vladimir Ilich Lenin in Chinese. The first four volumes are to appear in 1984; publication of all 60 volumes will be completed in 1990.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS TALKS WITH JAPAN BEGIN IN MOSCOW

Japan Deputy Minister Arrives

LD111717 Moscow TASS in English 1645 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS -- The deputy minister of foreign affairs of Japan, Toshiziro Nakajima, accompanied by a group of experts, arrived in Moscow today to hold regular working consultations along the line of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Toshiziro Nakajima was met at the airport by the USSR Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mikhail Kapitsa. Present at the airport was also the Japanese Ambassador to the USSR Masuo Takashima.

Kapitsa Represents USSR

OW121309 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] The regular working-level consulations between the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs began in Moscow today.

Attending the consultations from the Soviet side is Mikhail Kapitsa, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and from the Japanese side, Toshiziro Nakajima, deputy minister of foreign affairs.

JAPAN MISSILE-LADEN SUB DANGER IN INDIAN OCEAN

OW100534 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Vladimir Tsvetov commentary]

[Text] A ceremony was held at the Kobe shipyard of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to launch Japan's first missile-carrying submarine named "Nadashio." In this connection, Vladimir Tsvetov, Soviet television and radio political commentator, writes as follows:

The policy of defending the 1000-mile sealanes which was termed a national policy by Prime Minister Nakasone at a session of the House of Representatives' Budget Committee is now shifting from the discussion stage to that of practical action. The launching of "Nadashio," the submarine equipped with anti-shipping Harpoon missiles, is a proof of this shift.

As a result, the security of the sealanes in the Indian Ocean and in Japanese waters has practically become an urgent question, but not for Japan. No one has ever imposed a danger, even for once, to sealanes that are 1000 miles away from Japan. No one has ever stated any intention to blockade straits that are important to the navigation of Japanese vessels. Rather, the security of the sealanes in the Indian Ocean and in the South China Sea has now become an urgent question for the Soviet Union; since they are the only sealanes that are navigable all the year round and that connect ports in the western part and the eastern part of the Soviet Union, they are all the more important.

Japanese activists have frequently stated the possibility of Japan's blockading the straits in an attempt to prevent Soviet fleets from sailing into the ocean, and this has made the issue more acute. Over the past few years, the United States had dispatched more than 150 warships to the Indian Ocean and deployed Rapid Deployment Forces with 220,000 military personnel to this area. It is natural that this U.S. military presence has caused concern about their own security among the countries in the Indian Ocean area.

Plans to dispatch Japanese fleets to defend the 1000-mile sealanes have already been put into practice. The United States has demanded that Japan take over part of its gendarme functions in Asian waters, including the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and apparently, the Japanese Government is now ready to accept this request. Taking all these matters into account, countries in this region are bound to show the same alarm and distrust against Japan that they already have against the United States.

The 38th United Nations General Assembly has assigned a special committee the task of holding an international conference on the Indian Ocean in 1985 with the final goal of turning the Indian Ocean area into a peace zone. The flotilla of missile-carrying submarines that Japan has already started organizing is now being turned into an actual threat to the security in the Indian Ocean area. When this fact is taken into consideration, the conference on the Indian Ocean will become all the more significant.

KOREAN PEACE TALKS CONFERENCE HELD IN PARIS

LD100956 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] The international conference on trilateral talks on peace and reunification of Korea continues in Paris today. It is being held on the initiative of an international coordinating committee in support of the peaceful unification of Korea. The discussion at the conference, in which more than 30 states are taking part, centers around the proposal by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to conduct trilateral talks among the DPRK, the United States and South Korea regarding the signing of an agreement on peace and nonaggression [nenapadeniye] between the two Koreas, the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the territory of South Korea and the adoption of a declaration on renunciation of the use of military force.

USTINOV CONCLUDES VISIT TO INDIA; RETURNS HOME

Cites Indian Ocean Situation

LD101742 Moscow World Service in English 1531 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] In a recent speech in New Delhi during his official visit the Soviet defense minister, Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, accused aggressive imperialist groups of ignoring the interests of other countries in a bid to gain dominant positions in the world. These groups, said Marshal Ustinov, are stepping up the arms buildup and escalating tension in various parts of the world. This is evident not only from their confrontation with the countries of the socialist community. The United States and its allies in military blocs are also resorting to subversion, to economic and political pressure and finally to brute force in order to impose their imperialist domination on the developing countries. Many of these countries -- like Grenada, Lebanon, Nicaragua and Afghanistan -- have already felt this imperialist policy upon themselves.

The Soviet defense minister voiced concern over Washington's militarization of several South Asian countries, including countries bordering on peaceful India; also over the escalation of American military presence in the Indian Ocean, where a network of military bases is being set up and the interventionist Rapid Deployment Force is being deployed. Indeed the present situation in the Indian Ocean, where the Americans have nuclear weapons not only aboard naval ships that are based on Diego Garcia island, creates an explosive situation and may develop into a potential source of military conflicts. The NATO supreme commander in Europe, American General Rogers, once said that should another world war break out it would cut through the Middle East, the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

The present trend towards greater international tension and war danger is meeting with increased opposition among people of different races and nationalities and of different political and religious views. This struggle is conducted in a wide variety of ways and covers the government, diplomatic and social spheres. Its aim is to neutralize aggressive imperialist policy and strengthen world peace. One of its major supports has invariably been at the initiatives of the Soviet Union which, together with the other countries of the socialist community and all other peaceloving countries, is trying to maintain and consolidate peace and to put up a building of international security and cooperation that would be strong enough to weather any political or social storm.

The Soviet Union thinks highly of India's positive role in international affairs and its contribution to the Nonaligned Movement and to the efforts for peace and disarmament. In the present troublesome time for humanity the struggle acquires special importance. The Soviet Union wholly supports the efforts of Indian and other nonaligned nations to turn the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. This country believes the Indian Ocean will be peaceful but it is necessary to work for this goal.

The Soviet stand over the growing nuclear threat to humanity has been spelled out in the speeches of Konstantin Chernenko, the general secretary of the Communist Party's Central Committee. He has said that it is important to ensure the adequate security of the Soviet Union and its friends and allies, adding that no adventurers will catch us unawares. The general secretary also said that the complicated situation made it imperative to double and treble efforts in conducting a policy of peace and international cooperation.

These efforts will undoubtedly benefit not only the Soviet people but all other peoples, including the Asian and the Indian Ocean countries.

The fruitful basis of the good relations between the Soviet Union and the Republic of India was and remains their treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation. It serves well the interests of the Soviet and Indian people and helps to maintain and strengthen peace. The Soviet Union, said the defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, understands the Indian Government's striving to improve the country's defenses so as to ensure the Indian people's freedom and independence. Soviet-Indian cooperation in the military field facilitates better defenses for India. The Soviet Union, said Marshal Ustinov, wants to see friendly India a strong, nonaligned and independent state actively working to consolidate peace in Asia and the world over.

Meets With Singh, Gandhi

LD091805 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1717 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] Delhi, 9 Mar (TASS) -- Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, who is on an official visit here, was received today by Indian President Zail Singh.

In the course of the conversation, the president said that India is pleased to receive a delegation from the Soviet Union. Our friendship with the Soviet Union is highly esteemed, he stressed. This is particularly important in the present complex international situation. Your recent party Central Committee plenum demonstrated the continuity in the policy of the Soviet leadership. It reassures us that this policy, primarily aimed at defending peace, will be continued. The Soviet Union today is the chief guarantor of peace, and this secures protection from thermonuclear war for all mankind. Touching on Indian-Soviet relations, Z. Singh noted that they are at a high level. These are relations of friendship, fraternity and full mutual understanding. We in India will always be grateful to the Soviet Union for its disinterested aid and support.

Soviet-Indian relations, D. Ustinov said, are being built on the basis of full equality. The Soviet Union is not seeking any kind of gains and advantages for itself. USSR foreign policy is a policy of peace, relaxation of international tension, and strengthening of security and international cooperation. Soviet-Indian cooperation, including that in the field of defense, D. Ustinov said, meets the interests of peace and international security, not only in Asia, but throughout the world.

Dmitriy Ustinov also met with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today.

There was also a meeting between D. Ustinov and Indian Minister of External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao. During their conversation, which took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere, there was an exchange of opinions on topical international questions as well as Soviet-Indian relations. They stressed that relations between the USSR and India have a positive influence on the development of the international situation.

D. Ustinov continued his meetings and conversations with a talk with Indian Defense Minister Ramaswamy Venkataraman. They had an all-round exchange of opinions on questions of mutual interest concerning Soviet-Indian cooperation on defense. It was pointed out that the Soviet-Indian peace, friendship and cooperation treaty is a reliable and durable basis for friendly ties between the two states.

Makes Statement, Leaves India

LD100750 Moscow TASS in English 0743 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] New Delhi March 10 TASS -- Marshall of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov, the member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of defense, who stayed here on an official visit at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of India, left for home today. At the Palam Airport of New Delhi, decked with national flags of the two countries, he was seen off by the Defense Minister of India Ramaswamy Venkataraman, chiefs of staff of the Armed Services and representatives of the command of the Indian Army.

Before leaving for home, the USSR minister of defense made the following statement at the airport.

"While staying in your beautiful country, I had numerous meetings with state and military leaders of India. We regard these meetings as useful and fruitful. We were very much impressed by the talk with the Prime Minister of India Mrs. Indira Gandhi. During the visit we had an opportunity to get to know better the life of the great Indian people, of their Armed Forces. We shall remember the hearty welcome accorded everywhere in India to our delegation, and we regard it as a manifestation of sincere friendship and affection of the Indian people for the Soviet people and its Armed Forces. The feelings of the Soviet people for the Indian people are equally warm and friendly.

"We are taking home with us the firm conviction that our peoples and armies are united in many ways by the common striving for peace and international security, by the intention to consolidate in every way friendship and cooperation between us. We shall continue to do the utmost to promote a further development of friendly Soviet-Indian relations. We once again express our sincere gratitude to the Indian friends for their hospitality and cordiality".

Arrives in Moscow

LD101336 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Federovich Ustinov, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU, USSR defense minister, returned to Moscow from India today. He had been in that country on an official visit at the invitation of its government.

At the airport he was met by Comrade Romanov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU; Comrade Bugayev, civil aviation minister; Marshal of the Soviet Union Comrade Ogarkov, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces and USSR first deputy defense minister; Marshal of the Soviet Union Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister; Marshal of the Soviet Union Comrade Sokolov, USSR first deputy defense minister, and other officials.

INDIAN PARTIES SCORE U.S. MILITARY 'ESCALATION'

LD091906 Moscow TASS in English 1746 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] New Delhi March 9 TASS -- The two-day national conference against the threat of nuclear war and for India's security has closed its deliberations here with the adoption of a New Delhi declaration. The participants in the forum representing the country's eight political parties, youth and women's organisations, welcomed the peaceful foreign policy of the Soviet Union, spoke highly of its constructive peace initiatives aimed at removing the threat of a new world war and improving the international climate in the world.

The conferees condemned the Washington administration for its refusal to heed the voice of reason, unwillingness to pledge not to use nuclear weapons (?and) the escalation of military preparations for turning outer space into an arena of nuclear conflict.

U.S. imperialists, the declaration stresses, jeopardize both universal peace and India's security. They establish military bases on Pakistani territory, build up military preparations in the Indian Ocean, and form the "Rapid Deployment force". U.S. imperialism is attempting to intimidate India, to make it renounce the policy of non-alignment and give up anti-imperialist struggle. Under these (?conditions), India's political parties are resolved to integrate efforts with all forces committed to peace to give a rebuff to U.S. claims for world domination and to save the earth from nuclear death, the declaration concludes.

U.S. STEPPING UP 'SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY' IN PUNJAB

LD101815 Moscow TASS in English 1741 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] New Delhi March 10 TASS -- TASS correspondent Sergey Karmalito reports:

Extremist ring leaders, who entrenched themselves in the United States and who declare for establishment of a puppet "state of Khalistan" on the territory of the Indian state of Punjab and adjacent areas, held in Washington yet another provocative gathering, reports the Indian press. The gathering was held in one of the buildings of the complex of the U.S. Congress where house committees usually have their sessions. Present at the gathering were supporters of formation of "Khalistan" and their American accomplices -- Senators Jesse Helms and Pete Wilson. The initiator of the meeting, according to the HINDUSTAN TIMES, was Jesse Helms, well-known by his reactionary views. The main aim of the gathering was to get the American Government's support for the idea of formation of "Khalistan". A map of the South Asia subcontinent depicting this non-existent "state" was among "information materials" which were offered to the participants.

The newspaper STATESMAN notes in this connection that the American ultras demonstrate not for the first time their "devotion" to the Punjab extremists.

The self-same Jesse Helms used his position as a senator to get last year an entry visa to the United States for the self-styled "president" of "Khalistan" J. Singh Chaukhan, who was stripped of Indian citizenship for his subversive activity. The stay of that dyed in the wool extremist in the United States was used for holding a series of insolent provocations against India.

Local news analysts note that it is not accidental that the gathering in Washington coincided with sharply stepped up sallies in Punjab by thugs from underground extremist groupings. Scores of people fell victim to them in the recent time. A critical situation developed in a number of [word indistinct]. To normalise this situation the government was compelled to use special armed units of police and frontier guards. The Washington gathering had the aim to whip up extremists' subversive activity, to thwart the Indian Government's efforts aimed at settlement of the situation in Punjab.

U.S. SENDS MORE F-16 FIGHTER BOMBERS TO PAKISTAN

LD120031 Moscow TASS in English 2059 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] New Delhi, March 11 TASS -- Another consignment of "F-16" fighter bombers was delivered to Pakistan from the United States. This time the Pakistani Airforce was supplied with six up-to-date planes that the United States delivers to Pakistan under an agreement signed in December 1981. The previous consignment of six such planes was supplied to Pakistan in January last. All these planes (?have most) up-to-date radar equipment and weapons.

The agreements signed recently envisage that 3.2 billion dollars worth of U.S. armaments will be supplied to the Ziaul Haq regime. Specifically Washington pledged to sell 40 "F-16" fighter bombers to the Islamabad regime. Naturally, the United States attaches a number of terms to its military aid to Pakistan. Reports appear in the world press that the Pentagon seeks to get the right for the calls of U.S. aircraft carriers and other warships to the port of Karachi. It became known recently that five electronic tracking stations with (?most up-)to-date equipment have been set up in Sargodha, Gwadar, Peshawar, Karachi and Islamabad. These electronic tracking stations of the Centcom enable the Pentagon to conduct observations over Afghanistan and India, to check on the movement of vessels in the Indian Ocean.

All this causes justifiable concern in the countries that are Pakistan's neighbours. The strengthening of strategic ties between Washington and Islamabad, the United States' large scale [words indistinct] to Pakistan. The widening U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean basin, above all in the Persian Gulf, the creation of the Central Command (Centcom) are parts of the overall hegemonistic strategy of the United States.

U.S. PRESENCE IN BANGLADESH 'EXPANSIONIST'

LD091445 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 9 Mar 84

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Vyasheslav Lavrentyev]

[Text] As UP reports from Dacca, reports have appeared in the Bangladesh press that construction will soon begin at the port of Chittagong of a refuelling facility for American warships, and that it will subsequently be converted into a military base.

The writer of the dispatch points out that the decision on this is directly connected to the recent stay in Bangladesh of U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Easetern and South Asian Affairs Howard Schaffer. In Dacca he discussed questions connected with stepping up the American military presence in Bangladesh. I shall ask our commentator, Boris Andrianov, to give a more detailed picture of how such steps by Washington's officials in countries situated in the Indian Ocean zone should be evaluated.

[Andrianov] These steps should be considered from the point of view of the global U.S. strategy dictated by the expansionist schemes of American imperialism. It is apposite to stress that Washington's strategic course has already given birth to many of the most complicated world problems which are making the international situation difficult, and one is the problem of the Indian Ocean. The zone of this world ocean has long been reputed to be one of the main stores of natural resources on our planet. For a long time it has attracted the greedy gaze of the American imperialists.

In line with the will of those moneybags who define Washington's policy, more than 20 years ago the United States unceremoniously declared the Indian Ocean region a zone of their vital interests and included it in the so-called sphere for ensuring the security of America. Since then the Indian Ocean has become a region of military tension. The source of this is the militarist expansion of the United States, which took on an especially dangeous scale in the Reagan administration. It is intensively stepping up American military power there. Such a process of militarization of the Indian Ocean ha has already led to its waters being constantly plowed by almost 40 American warships, including two strike aircraft carriers and several atomic submarines carrying nuclear weapons, and in the airspace above this international ocean American war planes patrol, including the B-52 strategic bombers, carrying mass destruction weapons.

The expanionist imprints of the Washington militarists continue to grow. This is shown by their plans to equip American warships and planes with long-range cruise missiles, and in certain coastal states to locate Pershing II medium-range missiles. The network of American military installations is continuing to expand over the whole perimeter of the Indian Ocean. The Pentagon already has available three-tenths of the military bases in this region, and moreover there are plans to increase the number of servicemen posted there to a quarter of a million men in the near future. A significant number of them will be allocated to the contingents of the so-called Rapid Deployment Force. The central link of this gigantic militaristic complex is the American strategic base on the island of Diego Garcia. In the last year alone the United States spent more than $1 billion on modernizing it. There are reports that nuclear and chemical weapons have already been delivered there.

Evidently, however, Washington considers that all that is little to establish its military and political supremeacy in the Indian Ocean zone. Therefore the Pentagon is now trying to gain more military bases in certain countries of the region, and this is shown in particular by the example of the port of Chittagong, in Bangladesh. To all appearances Washington is now simply seized by a hegemonistic mania visible to the naked eye, and this is apparent especially glaringly in the Reagan administration's behavior in the Indian Ocean region.

For example, this is how Washington politicians arrogantly reason, not wishing to pay attention to the opinion of coastal states: The directives from the American militarists for the coming 5-year period say that additional military forces should be sent to the Persian Gulf region, and at the same time it is stressed with open cynicism that there is no need to wait for an invitation from U.S. allies in the oil-producing countries or, more precisely, no need to stand on ceremony.

This matter goes beyond Washington's imperialist ambitions; it is heading for the abyss in its efforts to implement expansionist plans hostile to the interests of the countries and peoples in both hemispheres of our planet, including those in the Indian Ocean zone.

DRA SPOKESMAN CITES U.S. OPPOSITION TO SOLUTION

LD102117 Moscow TASS in English 1928 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 10, BAKHTAR -- Replying to a question posed by a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent on the recent statements of highranking officials of the USA on the US assistance rendered to the counter-revolution of Afghanistan, a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA stated:

Recently, the representatives of US Administration have declared in one voice that they intend to continue their decisive support to the counterrevolutionary bands who carry out subversive acts against the people of Afghanistan and the popular and social system of Afghanistan. This subject was especially reiterated by George Shultz, US secretary of state, at the national political consultative committee. Recently, US under-secretary of state, Schaffer, repeated Shultz's words in a press conference in Dacca in which he explicitly declared that the USA will help the Afghan counter-revolution.

The statements of these highranking officials of USA once again indicate that Reagan's administration is not only uninterested in finding a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan but it also endeavours to obstruct the reaching of such a solution through the intensification of the undeclared war against the people of Afghanistan by all possible means.

The statements of a top-level official of CIA published in WASHINGTON POST in late December 1983 are quite frank in this context. He stated that: "It is obvious that the USA cannot accept the solution which is right now under the discussion through the United Nations even if it leads to the withdrawal of the military forces of the Soviet Union because this would mean the recognition of a Soviet-supported regime in Kabul by Pakistan."

Such explicit statements by USA directed towards the intensfication of aggression against the DRA pursues a special objective. On the threshold of new efforts for searching a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan and the visit of Diego Cordovez, deputy secretary general of UNO to the region, such statements are aimed at creating difficulties in the way of a possible accord, by exerting pressure over Pakistan and consequently to bring about negative results to the process of political solution.

Such activities are not amazing to Reagan administration because these acts are part of the aggressive and adventuristic policy of the United States which are being carried out with the aim of whipping up international tension and intensification of crisis with the hope of imposing US rule in this or that part of the world.

In this connection, it is necessary to emphatically state that the DRA like in the past would continue exposing all the conspiracies hatched by the opponents of the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan and would prevent the aggravation of the situation on the eve of the visit of Diego Cordovez to the region.

FRG SPD VOGEL-LED DELEGATION IN MOSCOW FOR TALKS

Met by Zagladin, Arbatov

LD111818 Moscow TASS in English 1622 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS -- A delegation of the group of the SDP in the FRG Bundestag headed by chairman of the group Hans-Jochen Vogel arrived here today at the invitation of the parliamentary group of the USSR.

At the airport the delegation was met by deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet Vadim Zagladin, Georgiy Arbatov, other officials.

Ambassador of the FRG in the USSR Hansjoerg Kastl was among the welcoming party.

Vogel Meets With Chernenko

LD121056 Hamburg DPA in German 1038 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Moscow, 12 Mar (DPA) -- Soviet party leader Konstantin Chernenko welcomed in Moscow today Hans-Jochen Vogel, Chairman of the SPD group in the Bundestag. Vogel and his delegation began their Moscow talks this morning at the CPSU Central Committee. The Soviet side was represented by Boris Ponomarev, Politburo candidate and Central Committee secretary; Vadim Zagladin, first deputy chief of the Central Committee International Department, and Georgiy Arbatov, director of the United States of America and Canada Institute. Chernenko joined them later and welcomed the German delegation. He emphasized that the USSR wants "to develop and deepen the good that we have achieved thus far." Moscow is prepared for an improvement and deepening of relations. Vogel said this is a good maxim in the interest of the peoples. Subsequently, the two delegations continued the exchange of views with Chernenko present.

KOHL U.S. VISIT; ECONOMIC, MILITARY TIES EYED

DW091415 Moscow in German to Germany 1700 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Valentin Sakharov commentary]

[Text] Esteemed ladies and gentlemen, after his return to the capital of the CDU state, Chancellor Helmut Kohl was enthusiastic about the extreme cordiality he experienced in Washington. The White House itself outlined the background of the Bonn guest in a booklet for American journalists. It said the following about Kohl: The federal chancellor is an expert on wine, smokes a pipe, and speaks some English.

The chancellor most obviously enjoyed the Washington visit, primarily because of the attention he received in the U.S. press in contrast to last year, particularly because of his extreme loyalty to the Reagan administration in almost all matters relating to Washington's policies of confrontation and arms buildup.

In summarizing his working visit to Washington, Chancellor Kohl stressed the current agreement regarding alliance policy. Concretely speaking, this was expressed in the following two assurances:

According to U.S. Statements, Chancellor Kohl did not press President Ronald Reagan in their 2-hour meeting for new proposals for the Geneva negotiations, which had been torpedoed by Washington. On their part, Kohl's hosts stressed they do not even consider such proposals, and that the deployment of Pershing and cruise missiles will continue.

So it turns out that the talk about being prepared for dialogue with the East is nothing but the desire to cover the U.S. intermediate-range first strike missiles in the FRG with a magic cloak, a magic cloak of negotiations. When the FRG and American spokesmen stressed the close harmony between Kohl and Reagan and said they are on the same wavelength, it involves intensified armament not only in the nuclear, but in the so-called conventional fields as well. The same wavelength on which Washington and Bonn achieved agreement obviously also includes the field of economic policy. However, there is no sign that Chancellor Kohl has created some movement with regard to U.S. economic, financial, and monetary policies.

However, the irresponsible increase in the U.S. military budget, which has unleased an unprecendented arms race, does not just increasingly threaten world peace. The dimensions of Reagan's militarization policy leave a very deep negative impact in the economic and social fields not just for the United States. It more than ever involves the West European alliance and business partners of the United States.

There is good reason why the FRG and other West European states' high-ranking politicians continue to maintain that the United States is waging an economic and monetary war against its allies, a ruthless economic war.

Judging by all this, in his working visit to Washington Chancellor Kohl was seeking even closer ties with the Reagan administration. This is a safe way to end up as a satellite.

GREEK PROTEST TO U.S. ON TURKISH WARSHIPS' FIRING

LD091249 Moscow TASS in English 1152 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Athens March 9 TASS -- A statement of the Government of Greece has been issued here. In the statement it is said that a group of Turkish warships participating in exercises in the northern part of the Aegean sea fired at the Greek destroyer Panter which was in Greek territorial waters. Greece has decided to recall its ambassador from Turkey in connection with this incident.

The Greek Government lodged protest with the United States. Deputy Foreign Minister Ioannis Kapsis summoned the U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Athens Allen Berlind who was told that actions of the United States heighten tension in the area of the Aegean Sea.

NEW SPANISH CP LEADER ON PLENUM DECISIONS

PM091220 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Mar 84 Second Edition p 4

[Own correspondent V. Chernyshev dispatch: "Important Tasks"]

[Text] Madrid, 5 Mar -- Ignacio Gallego, general secretary of the Communist Party created this January, has told a press conference of Spanish and foreign journalists about the decisions adopted by its Central Committee's recent plenum, which discussed the domestic and foreign situation, the tasks of Spanish Communists, and a number of organizational questions.

The document approved by the Central Committee plenum notes that in the context of the stepping up of the Reagan administration's policy of aggression the Central Committee stresses the importance of intensifying the struggle for peace and disarmament and calls on party members and the Spanish people to increase efforts to consolidate the powerful Spanish peace movement, demanding the abrogation of the agreement with the United States whereby it retains military bases on Spanish territory and the immediate holding of a referendum on the question of Spanish NATO membership.

In the sections dealing with Spain's domestic problems the document expresses solidarity with the workers' struggle in defense of their vital rights. The Central Committee notes with great anxiety the growth in unemployment and supports the workers commission's trade union confederation proposal that a day of struggle against government economic policy be held.

The Communist Party Central Committee plenum noted that the enthusiasm which the recent congress of communist unity evoked "is finding expression in important achievements in the political and organizational fields."

The Central Committee draws attention to the need to organize and strengthen party cells in enterprises and to accelerate the process of creating a powerful Communist youth movement. The document contains a call for support to be given to the Communist Party newspaper, NUEVO RUMBO, and for its wide distribution to be organized.

U.S. MISSILE EXERCISES HELD IN UK, FRG

LD091353 Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The United States last night held exercises with new nuclear missiles deployed at the bases in Great Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany. A column of vehicles with cruise missiles left the base at Greenham Common, 80 km southwest of London, and headed for an unknown destination. This was soon after midnight. The crews were made up of American and British servicemen under the command of American officers. The women at the peace camp near the base tried to interfere but were surrounded by the police. The exercises continued for 3 and 1/2 hours. A spokesman of the Defense Ministry refused to disclose any details and said the exercises would continue in the future as well. According to the West German news agency, PROGRESS PRESS AGENTUR, exercises with the Pershing II missiles were also held at the American base in Muntlangen in the Federal Republic of Germany.

REAGAN AUSTRIAN REMARK CAUSES 'DISCOMFITURE'

PM091101 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 3

[N. Novikov "Rejoinder": "Discomfiture Again"]

[Text] The great physicist Einstein once complained that good ideas are hard to come by. But Washington has decided to refute this assertion. It has had an idea: Why not, after 29 years, "amend" an international document signed by several powers? We are talking about the State Treaty on the Restoration of an Independent and Democratic Austria. And an opportunity turned up at just the right moment -- the official visit to the United States by Austria's President R. Kirchschlaeger.

And U.S. President R. Reagan decided to put forward this idea at a dinner in honor of the eminent guest. The White House chief stated plainly that the United States is prepared to "guarantee the sovereignty" of Austria. Note: not respect, but "guarantee." Even though Article 1 of the state treaty says: "The Allied and United Powers recognize that Austria is restored as a sovereign, independent, and democratic state." And Article 2 goes on to stress: "The Allied and United Powers state that they will respect the independence and territorial integrity of Austria in the form laid down by the present treaty."

This statement by the White House chief, the Austrian press notes, has caused "discomfiture" among those accompanying the Austrian president. They, of course, are familiar with instances of the violation of commitments assumed by Washington on the basis of interstate documents and of the abrogation or even annulment of the latter. But this crude attempt to "amend" a multilateral treaty has caused a real sensation. After all, as far as the "guaranteeing of sovereignty" by the United States is concerned, the following instances are still fresh in everybody's memory. Grenada, where U.S. armored "crusaders" crushed the tiny democratic republic, or Lebanon, where "sovereignty" "was guaranteed" by 16-inch shells from the U.S. battleship New Jersey which sowed death and destruction in Beirut, or Nicaragua, where the United States is waging an undeclared war against the Nicaraguans, who are defending the independence of their country. Of course, neutral Austria wants no such "guarantees."

Commenting on this pronouncement by the White House chief, the Austrian newspaper DIE PRESSE stresses: "It is perfectly clear that Austria is bound in the international law sense to observe the state treaty down to the tiniest detail...But there are no guarantees of sovereignty on the part of the treaty partners. To respect something and to guarantee something are, after all, two completely different things!"

The Austrian press also notes that the U.S. President's statement is no accident. In recent years, VOLKSTIMME writes, Austrian neutrality has been subjected to serious attack from the United States. The arrogant imperial U.S. stance is provoking legitimate indignation in Austrian society. The transatlantic slogan: "I run things as I want" has been misfiring with increasing frequency recently. And this statement by the U.S. Administration chief has produced obvious discomfiture.

WEINBERGER REMARKS ON AUSTRIA ASSAILED

PM120932 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[Yu. Orlov "Rejoinder": "Uninvited Patrons"]

[Text] The APA news agency has broadcast an interview given by U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger to the Austrian journal PROFIL. The head of the Pentagon this time ventured into a field that is somewhat new for him, in addition to engaging in grating rhetorical exercises about the "happiness" that has been brought to Europe by the appearance of the new U.S. first-strike missiles and to Lebanon by the stationing of U.S. Marines. All of a sudden he has turned his attention and concern to the sovereignty of neutral Austria.

It is logical to ask why. These matters have been settled on a firm and reliable basis by the 1955 State Treaty and the Austrian law on permanent neutrality. Austria occupies a fitting position in Europe and the world, maintaining and developing peaceful cooperation with both East and West. It makes its constructive contribution to the solution of topical international problems and -- most important -- the majority of Austrians are committed champions of their state's peaceful and neutral status.

But what does Weinberger care? Whatever happens, a mangy person thinks of nothing else but the bath house. He is itching. To start with, Weinberger proclaims that the United States, a power which signed the 1955 Austrian Treaty, intends and is prepared to fulfill all the obligations it undertook at that time. At first glance, all is to the good, and even praiseworthy. But these obligations, in the U.S. defense secretary's view, consists of... "supporting Austria in the defense of its neutrality in the possible event of a crisis." What crisis, Mr Weinberger? Could it be the one that your department is diligently planning for Europe in accordance with the famous Presidential Directives and the insane plans for a "crusade" against socialism?

And to continue: "If we were to regain the deterrent military power which we used to have and which we would like to restore," Weinberger declares, "neither Austria nor any one of our allies would be subjected to attack."

Neutral Austria has thus found itself spoken of by Weinberger in the same breath as the U.S. NATO allies. He could not, of course, be bothered to ask whether the Austrian wish this or not. He is obviously not interested in the consequences of such irresponsible statements, either. So there you have respect for neutrality and sovereignty, Pentagon-fashion.

The Austrian press writes that the spokesmen of the present U.S. Administration are simply talking nonsense. It says that they either do not understand or do know what the United States signed in the Austrian treaty, what they are and what they are not allowed to do. This is quite possible. The amazing ignorance of the incumbent Washington officials is well known to everyone. But are we talking only about ignorance here?

The existence of neutral and independent Austria is an important component of the present state of affairs in Europe. It is immutable. This is in the interests of everyone, and primarily of the Austrians themselves. We must hope that they will refresh the memory of the uninvited would-be patrons from Washington on this score.

TERESHKOVA RESPONSE TO THATCHER LETTER PUBLISHED

LD101526 Moscow TASS in English 1506 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS -- The newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA today carries a letter from the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher addressed to the newspaper. Follows the full text of the reply to Margaret Thatcher by Chairman of the Soviet Women's Committee, Pilot Cosmonaut of the USSR Valentina Tereshkova:

"Esteemed Mrs. Thatcher,

"Your letter that the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA editorial board familiarised me with impels me to some of the questions touched upon by you.

"'I also vote for peace,' you write. Well, we should be glad to believe you. But, I shall honestly say, much of what is now taking place in Western top echelons hampers that.

"'NATO does not threaten you,' you assure, citing the declaration of the North Atlantic Pact which was adopted in June 1982. We know about that statement. We also know that before its adoption one of the co-authors of this statement -- U.S. President Ronald Reagan (speaking, by the way, in British Parliament) proclaimed a 'crusade' against socialism. And you did not dissociate yourself from such an intention.

"Meanwhile this crusade is undertaken not only with anti-communist gonfalons. New American medium-range nuclear missiles appeared in your country, and also in other West European states. And your generals do not conceal that they are targeted on our country. One cannot, regrettably, evaluate this, much as we should like to, as a way of 'voting for peace'."

"You wished to convince us that the deployment of new American missiles was only a counter-measure to upsetting the military equilibrium in Europe by the Soviet Union. You even cite figures, which are impressive, in your opinion: A year ago the USSR had 1000 warheads in medium-range missiles, while the West had none in Europe. I am no expert in this field, Mrs Thatcher, but I know the basic things.

"Britain and France together have 162 medium-range missiles, haven't they? They also existed a year ago and they exist today, too. It is incomprehensible why you decided to consider them to be nonexistent. You also fail to take into account the NATO medium-range aircraft carrying on their board nuclear weapons designed for use also against the USSR.

"I recall: In the year of 1979, the same year when NATO took the decision on 'additional armament' the International Institute for Strategic Studies, which is not very far from your, Mrs Thatcher, residence, noted the equilibrium of the military forces of the NATO bloc and the Warsaw Treaty Organization, including new Soviet SS-20 missiles.

"You reproach the Soviet Union with allegedly 'walking out' of the talks with the Americans. Facts, however testify to the contrary. Literally to the last day of the Geneva talks the USSR strove for reaching agreement, put forward various versions, offered one compromise after another -- wishing to reach a mutually acceptable agreement. Our initiatives went so far that we proposed not to have in Europe any nuclear weapons at all -- either tactical, or medium-range ones. All these are known facts. I believe that you are also familiar with the Soviet proposals. But it is precisely your ally that was carrying out intensive preparations at the time of the talks for the deployment of missiles and started sending them to Europe, which made the talks impossible. So it is not the USSR which "walked out" of the talks, it is Washington, which exploded them for the sake of deploying its weapons targeted on the USSR.

"[Words indistinct] want the Soviet people to believe in NATO's peaceableness, I wish to ask: Why shouldn't the NATO nuclear countries make a commitment never to be the first to use the nuclear weapons, as the Soviet Union has already done? Why shouldn't they agree to concluding with the Warsaw Treaty organization an agreement on mutual non-use of military force? Why shouldn't they display true wisdom, by giving up a further deployment of the missiles and withdrawing those, which have already been placed?

"It depends on the answer to these questions, whether your statements on the striving for peace and overcoming the feeling of horror, which war causes, will sound convincing. We do not doubt the peaceableness of the British people, like that of the other peoples, and it is this peaceableness that gives us hope for the better."

"As the chairman of the Soviet Women's Committee, I deal every day with letters of my countrywomen who express concern over the darkening clouds of war threat in the horizon of our planet.

"So many years passed after the end of the Second World War and till now I am being approached by [words indistinct] relatives, with the call: to do the utmost to avert the threat of war. The same thought keynotes the addresses of Soviet youth to you. Those letters were written by coevals of my daughter, I take close to heart and understand their concerns and hopes. To see their hopes put into life, everyone of us should 'vote for peace' but not in words but by a concrete contribution to the cause of curbing war.

"Respectfully yours, Valentina Tereshkova."

ALIYEV BEGINS WORKING VISIT TO DAMASCUS

Departure for Syria

PM121028 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Departure From Moscow"]

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS -- CPSU Central Committee Politburo member, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Geydar Aliyev left Moscow for Damascus today for a short working visit at the invitation of the leaders of the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was seen off at the airport by CPSU Central Committee Politburo member Mikhail Solomentsev; First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Georgiy Korniyenko; G.K. Tsinev, first deputy chairman of the USSR KGB; I.I. Kovalenko, deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee department; L.S. Svechnikov, deputy minister of civil aviation, and other officials.

Also present at the airport was the ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to the USSR, Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi.

Report on Arrival

LD101149 Moscow TASS in English 1142 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus March 10 TASS -- The member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Geydar Aliyev arrived today in the Syrian Arab Republic for a short working visit.

He was met at the airport by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and other officials.

The welcoming party included the USSR Ambassador to Syria Vladimir Yukhin.

Syrian Reportage

For Syrian coverage of the visit to Damascus by USSR Politburo member Geydar Aliyev, including reports on his meetings with Syrian leaders, see the Syria section of the 12 March Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

SYRIA ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT

LD120916 Moscow TASS in English 0820 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus March 12 TASS -- It has been officially announced here about the formation of a new Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with a decree by President Hafiz al-Asad.

'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm has retained his post of prime minister. Mustafa Talas has been appointed deputy prime minister and defence minister. Faruq ash-Shar' has become foreign affairs minister.

The presidential decree has appointed three vice presidents of the country. They are 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam (former foreign minister), Rif'at al-Asad and Zuhayr Mashariqah.

LEBANON'S CANCELLATION OF 15 MAY ACCORD APPLAUDED

LD110159 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Mar 84

[From the Vremya newscast; special correspondent Farid Seyful-Mulyukov video report from Beirut]

[Text] Today, in this city crippled by war and occupation, a ray of hope has appeared. The Lebanese have received with joy the decision of the central government on the cancellation of the shackling agreement with Israel. This was a concrete result of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's recent meeting in Damascus with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. Efforts are now being made to effect a complete halt to armed clashes between the combatant groups in Lebanan and to resume the national dialogue on the country's destiny.

Peace has not yet come to the land of the ancient cedars. The Israeli aggressors, who by fire and the sword would consolidate their occupation of southern Lebanon, have responded to the cancellation of the separatist agreement with bombing raids on a number of the country's mountain regions. Nor does the United States intend to leave Lebanon in peace. The guns of the 6th Fleet are still aimed at Lebanese villages which have been victims of the American brigandage.

Amin al-Jumayyil has invited Lebanon's leading politicians to take part in a conference which is to open in Lausanne on 12 March. Both the patriotic forces and the rightist parties are, in the stiff political struggle, working out their positions on the eve of this conference. The steadfastness of the mountaineers, guerrillas of southern Lebanon, and patriotic forces of Beirut, has struck down the American-Israel deal directed against the national interests of the Lebanese republic. Together with the Lebanese, the Syrian soldiers, too, are standing against the aggressors.

As Hafiz al-Asad declared in his talk with Lebanon's President Amin al-Jumayyil, the cancellation of the shackling agreement imposed on Lebanon under the muzzles of guns is the victory of the Lebanese and Syrian peoples, the victory of the whole Arab nation.

U.S. CONCERN OVER GULF OIL SUPPLIES EXAMINED

PM091458 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 6 Mar 84 First Edition p 3

[Boris Rachkov article: "Oil Reserves in the Pentagon's Sights"]

[Text] The United States has stepped up its military preparations in the Persian Gulf region, which Washington has arbitrarily declared a "zone of U.S. vital interests." Exploiting the new exacerbation of the Iran-Iraq conflict, the United States is amassing major military forces here, in particular warships. All this is provoking mounting world disquiet about the possible influence of this situation on Arab and Iranian oil exports. Deep disquiet is being expressed about the possibility of serious interruptions in shipments of "black gold," which would inevitably have grave economic and political consequences.

Judging by foreign forecasts a partial or total termination of Arab and Iranian oil exports would entail a decline in industrial production in Western countries and a shortfall in their aggregate gross national product at least $800 billion and perhaps up to $2,400 billion per year. The first sum is comparable to the FRG suddenly completely dropping out of the Western industrial community and the second sum is almost double Japan's gross national product. Moreover, the growth in the army of unemployed in the West would amount to between 4 to 10 million people.

To a certain extent bourgeois economists have based these calculations on the fact that even the comparatively short interruptions in Arab oil deliveries in 1973-1974 caused the United States, for instance, $20 billion worth of damage and increased unemployment by 500,000, as the U.S. President reported in his energy address to Congress in January 1977.

The facts of the past decades irrefutably prove that every instance of interruptions in Middle East oil supplies has been caused by crude attempts by outside forces to hinder the normal process of the national economic and political development of the Arab countries and Iran. For instance, when in May 1951 the government of Doctor Mossadeq nationalized the Iranian oil industry, British big capital declared an oil boycott, which was immediately supported by the U.S. monopolies. As a result of this step Iran for a number of years dropped out of the ranks of oil exporters, which had an extremely negative effect both on the country itself and on the many purchasers of its "black gold." When in Octover 1956, after its nationalization of the Suez Canal, Egypt was subjected to triple armed aggression by Britain, France, and Israel, the first casualty of the aggression was shipping in the canal, through which around 100 million metric tons of oil reached Europe each year. In July 1958 the colonial monarchy in Iraq was overturned, which impelled the U.S. 6th Fleet and the British Admiralty to resort to the services of their assault troops in Lebanon and Jordan, which also had consequences for the world oil market.

Since direct military interference by the great Western powers in Middle Eastern affairs was arousing the peoples' mounting indignation, in recent years the West, and above all the United States, has preferred to "punish" the owners of Middle East oil mainly through the agency of Israel. Turned into a mighty militarized fist, Israel, with direct transatlantic support, conducted a policy of exhausting and humiliating neighboring Arab states. This took the form of the ferocious 2-week Israeli-Arab war in October 1973, which caused the last serious interruptions in Arab oil supplies to the United States and certain other of Israel's allies. This was logically followed by the sharp increase in the price of oil on the world market in 1973-1974, which virtually marked the start of an unprecedented energy crisis in the West. The blows of the crisis were aggravated in 1979-1980, when the Carter administration attempted by means of a military blockade of Iran and even helicopter assault force to "punish" that country for exiling its hated "America's best friend" -- Shah Reza Pahlavi.

The Carter administration resurrected, as it were, "America's right" to direct military interference in the Middle East region in addition to reliance on Tel Aviv. The consequence of this was the appearance in the area during the Reagan administration of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force, which now operates in concert with the Israeli Armed Forces in Lebanon. At the same time Britain and France, which took part in the "multinational Forces," are being drawn into the increasingly deadlocked Iran-Iraq war.

It was precisely the sale of French fighters armed with Exocet missiles to Iraq that prompted Iran to warn the West about the possibility of blocking shipments of oil from the Persian Gulf if the French missiles are used against Iranian oilfields. And this in turn prompted Washington to hint at the possibility of military operations against Iran if it closes the oil routes. Reports by THE WASHINGTON POST and other well informed U.S. press organs that the Reagan administration is secretly examining plans to use not only the Israeli Armed Forces to invade the region's oil-producing countries are also causing concern.

The current escalation of threats and direct military operations in the Near and Middle East has coincided with the 10th anniversary of the 1973 Near East war, which not only set the West on the road to the energy crisis, but also opened its eyes to the danger of the overdependence of the Western power industry on foreign fuel resources and to the importance of developing its own considerable fuel riches.

Specifically, in a 1973 radio and television speech the former U.S. President urged his compatriots to solve the energy problem above all by utilizing their own potential. "Let us make it our national goal," the U.S. President bombastically exclaimed, "to create by the end of this decade the potential to satisfy our energy needs independently of any foreign energy source."

And what happened? Deadlines passed. The widely advertized plan stayed on paper, and in certain years during the last decade U.S. dependence on foreign oil was twice as high as it had been before the energy crisis. Foreign oil, even when its price had increased many times over, remained more profitable for U.S. big business than the development of the country's own truly considerable energy resources.

The multibillion-dollar appropriations intended for the program for expanding the country's own fuel and energy base were taken over by the Pentagon, in part to provide risky military insurance for the immense U.S. dependence on foreign oil. And now the entire international situation is being seriously complicated by the fact that Washington is concealing its own interests in keeping the oil-producing countries in a state of submissiveness with fantasies about the "Soviet threat" to the Middle East.

And yet there has not been a single interruption in deliveries of Middle Eastern oil because of the Soviet Union, and the USSR lays no claim to foreign fuel and other natural riches. Moreover, our country has traditionally been one of the world's biggest fuel exporters, making a substantial contribution to solving the world energy problem.

The present Middle East tension is one of the main consequences of the stubbornness of the U.S. neocolonialist hawks. It now threatens the United States itself. This is shown by, for instance, a report by a U.S. Congress research group, which was recently released by Carl Levin, the Democratic senator from Michigan. According to the report, the possible termination of Middle East oil shipments could currently cost the United States $300-900 billion and the loss of between 1.2 and 3.6 million jobs.

The United States, after the short-lived "energy insight" enshrined in the 1973 plan -- which, incidentally, did not preclude the development of equal international cooperation in the sphere of energy -- has again slid into positions of a belligerent "oil neocolonialism," which is fraught with unpredictable dangers not only for America.

Some 10 years ago, in November 1973, the U.S. President concluded his speech in support of the "Independence" plan with the optimistic statement: "We have encountered an energy crisis, but there can be no question of any crisis, of the American spirit."

However, does not the U.S. return to antediluvian methods of solving economic problems by force of arms attest to a crisis of spirit in Washington? And many people in the United States realize this. Senator G. Hart, a presidential hopeful, has openly described Reagan's militarist policy in the Near East as a "disgrace to the nation."

U.S. STANCE ON APARTHEID, NAMIBIA ASSAILED

PM092034 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[A. Patin article: "What Is the Meaning of the U.S. Maneuvers in Southern Africa?"]

[Text] The world public's attention has recently been drawn to the heightened diplomatic activity in southern Africa where the South African military are sowing death and destruction and shedding the blood of thousands of civilians.

Here, as in other trouble spots in the world -- the Near East and the Caribbean -- America's aggressive imperialist policy, unsuccessfully masked behind a love of peace and concern for security and stability, is so clearly visible.

Washington's envoys, carrying out a kind of "shuttle" diplomacy whose proclaimed aims are "peacemaking in southern Africa" and the creation there of a "regional security system," have become familiar figures in South Africa as well as in such African capitals as Luanda, Maputo, Lusaka, and Dar es Salaam. It seems very much as though the United States, having suffered a succession of foreign policy failures, is trying to make up for this by the semblance of diplomatic successes in southern Africa.

It is legitimate to ask: What are the true aims and targets of U.S. policy in southern Africa? A policy statement on U.S. strategy in Africa was recently put forward by Secretary of State G. Shultz. His line was as clear and frank as could be. Shultz stated that the United States has, above all, a "significant geopolitical interest" in African affairs, that Africa is an important supplier of raw materials vital to the world (here read U.S.) economy, and finally, that Africa is important to the United States politically since African states make up nearly one-third of the total number of members of the United Nations where these states usually function as a cohesive bloc. Having said all this, Shultz dwelt in particular on U.S. policy in southern Africa and attempted to present it as impartial and dictated by a desire for peace.

An objective analysis of this policy, however, indicates quite the reverse. Let us take the question of the U.S. attitude to South Africa's racist regime. There is no trace of impartiality here. It is the purest deception. Everyone is familiar with the statement by the U.S. President who called South Africa a "historical ally" of the United States and everyone is also familiar with Washington's policy of "constructive cooperation" with Pretoria. It is also clear to any unbiased observer that were it not for direct U.S. political, economic, and military support, South Africa could not have thrown down an open challenge to the world community for so long, ignored UN Security Council resolutions on the granting of independence to Namibia, resolutions binding on all, or committed acts of unconcealed aggression against the independent African states.

Acting in unison with South Africa, U.S. ruling circles are implementing a kind of "division of labor" with their "historical ally." Whereas Pretoria uses crude force and the mailed fist against the frontline African countries, Washington acts as a "peacemaker" promising mountains of gold to those who "put themselves in the difficult position" of their racist neighbor who, it seems, needs to be defended against the "terrorists" threatening it -- that is what Washington and Pretoria call the Namibian patriots and those who combat apartheid in South Africa.

Thus the role assumed by the United States in southern Africa consists in acting jointly with South Africa to impose on the African peoples the imperialist model of pacification which is contrary to the whole course of the progressive historical development of this region's countries. The United States and South Africa are striving primarily to prevent the downfall of the apartheid regime and to remove it from its international isolation despite the decisions of the United Nations and OAU.

Washington's cooperation with Pretoria against the interests of independent Africa is visible on the question of the Namibian settlement which, as is well known, has been on the agenda of the United Nations and other authoritative international forums for almost 20 years. Despite the many UN resolutions demanding an end to the South African racists' illegal occupation of Namibia the apartheid regime has stubbornly blocked the practical resolution of this question. As a result of recent efforts by African and other countries, all the obstacles placed by South Africa in the path of Namibian independence have essentially been removed and the Pretoria regime has found itself in unprecedented isolation. It was then that Washington devised the notorious "linkage" of the Namibian settlement with the question of the Cuban internationalists' presence in Angola. Pretoria jumped at this and the Namibian settlement was deadlocked.

One of the points in the African strategy proclaimed by Secretary of State Shultz would seem to have a worthy goal -- namely, the granting of independence to Namibia. But these are mere words -- just empty rhetoric. If you peel off the verbal shell of U.S. policy and take a deeper look, it is not the Namibian people's interests that it places in the forefront but rather South Africa's claims, which are: to prevent the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO), (which has been recognized by the United Nations, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement as the sole and genuine representative of the Namibian people), from coming to power there. Besides the line of "linking" Namibian independence to the question of the Cuban internationalists' withdrawal from Angola, Washington is also harboring such far-reaching plans as the elimination of the progressive regime in Angola.

No one can hide the indisputable facts which prove that the United States and South Africa are attempting to resolve the Namibian problem on a neocolonialist basis by using the old imperialist policy of the "carrot and the stick," that is, by applying military and crude political pressure on the one hand and promising peace and generous assistance to those countries that have suffered the racists' military aggression, subversive actions, and policy of economic destabilization, on the other.

It is clear in all respects that the U.S. strategy toward Africa assigns a very prominent place to promises of "assistance." However, there has still been no example in history when the imperialists helped to strengthen the liberated countries' economic independence or development along the path of progress. This is eloquently demonstrated by Zimbabwe's experience. All this young African state had to do was to criticize the United States in the United Nations, particularly over the invasion of Grenada, for Washington to sharply reduce the economic assistance that it had promised Zimbabwe. That is what U.S. promises are worth.

The immoral and dangerous nature of U.S. policy in southern Africa was noticed in an article published in a recent issue of the FOREIGN AFFAIRS journal [as received]. "America," the article says, "views regional stability primarily as a problem of relations between states not as a problem rooted in South Africa and spilling over its borders."

It is thus a matter of Washington's gambling on giving support to South Africa while ignoring the racist sociopolitical and economic structure existing in that country which is hated by the peoples and not just the African peoples. The essence of the matter is not changed by "soothing" statements by U.S. politicians to the effect that the apartheid system can be transformed by means of limited reforms carried out from above. Under these conditions, U.S. diplomatic efforts at playing the part of a mediator or "honest broker" amount to attempts to call on the frontline African states to come to terms "temporarily" with the system of racist terror and oppression existing in South Africa for the sake of "peace and stability." Visitors of various kinds from the United States have been bending over backward in an attempt to convince the Africans that the latter's thesis that no country's independence can be considered full and guaranteed until colonialism and racism in southern Africa are at an end is incorrect.

It hardly needs to be said that this U.S. policy is futile.

The African peoples, including those in the frontline states, are naturally interested in creating peaceful conditions for their free and independent development. However, they are well aware that the very existence of the terrorist regime in South Africa is the main source of tension in the south of the continent. The elimination of the racist system is the indispensable condition for lasting peace in this region. All the experience of their past struggle demonstrates the need to show the greatest vigilance toward U.S. diplomacy's so-called "peacemaking" maneuvers.

Thus if the United States is interested in promoting peace and progress in Africa not just in words but in deeds, it must first end its support for the despicable apartheid system in South Africa and strive for Pretoria's renunciation of the policy of armed aggression and subversive actions against neighboring states and for the swift and truly just solution of the Namibian question in accordance with certain UN resolutions.

The Soviet Union, for its part, does not pursue in southern Africa any interests that run counter to the aspirations of the African peoples themselves, particularly to their desire for the speediest settlement of the Namibian question. It proceeds from the premise that a truly just solution if the Namibian problem would be an important positive factor in the development of the situation in southern Africa and would open up practical possiblilities for further steps to improve the atmosphere in that part of the world.

U.S. 'PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY' IN EL SALVADOR HIT

PM091624 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 4

[Vikentiy Matveyev "Political Observer's Opinion": "The State Department and the 'Death Squads'"]

[Text] "The success of U.S. policy in Central America depends largely on the actions of the 25,000-strong Salvadoran Army." U.S. TIME magazine, 6 February 1984.

On 1 March news agencies carried reports from San Salvador about a statement circulated there by detachments of the pro-American puppet regime's Armed Forces that are operating in the country -- detachments known as "death squads." The statement warns that any journalist -- local or foreign -- who criticizes the setup in the country ought to be aware that he or she is threatened with execution for such utterances.... The BBC mentioned this statement briefly; Voice of America thought it preferable to keep quiet about it.

But who knows whether in a dispatch a local Voice of America correspondent will not blurt out something that will make him a target of the "death squads'" terror? This is not a farfetched question. In recent years a number of American men and women living in El Salvador who did not sympathize in the least with the Salvadoran patriotic forces fighting for freedom but who somehow incurred the displeasure of the "death squads" have fallen victim to their terror.

Following the murder of four U.S. nuns in El Salvador, the then U.S. president, Carter, dispatched a special commission led by W. Rogers to El Salvador at the end of 1980.Rogers wrote in NEWSWEEK magazine in March 1981 that the commission had been able to establish the direct involvement of the Salvadoran "official security forces" in the death of the American women.

These forces are personified in Roberto D'Aubuisson. His trademark is an 11-caliber pistol. [as published] He is never seen without it, even though he is constantly accompanied by at least eight hefty bodyguards. In the recent past d'Aubuisson served in the police with the rank of major. And he has "risen" to become the leader of one of El Salvador's pogrom "parties" engaging in fascist terror. But that is merely a front. The main sphere of action of this cutthroat whom White, a former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, described as a "psychopathic killer," is backstage. The U.S. press is full of reports that D'Aubuisson is the undercover chief of the "death squads." White's aforementioned remark cost him his job as ambassador. Official Washington recalled him from this post. His successor, Ambassador Hinton, did not fare any better. When he said that an extreme right-wing mafia responsible for the deaths of thousands of people is operating in El Salvador, the White House ordered him to return home too.

All this is very recent history, so to speak. But let's turn to the present. At the beginning of this year, U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz toured a number of Latin American countries on what he described, without modesty, as "a mission to promote democracy." Well, he could not possibly miss El Salvador! There is a worthwhile arena for this missionary! And, of course, while he was there the State Department chief met with D'Aubuisson too. The high-ranking guest attended a dinner given in his honor at which, among the local officials, D'Aubuisson, too, was ceremonially seated in full regalia -- including the gun at his side, of course.

At that time, the press throughout the world was carrying reports that the "death squads" in El Salvador had killed tens of thousands of people in the course of the previous 4 years. To cite a characteristic detail: After the arrival in El Salvador of Pickering, the new U.S. ambassador, the atrocities assumed an even bigger scale.

And what did the State Department chief do while in El Salvador? At the aforementioned dinner in San Salvador he mentioned -- in passing -- the question of the "death squads." It turns out, so he said, that "there is no room for the 'death squads' and terror in a democracy... "Even D'Aubuisson rewarded the speaker with applause. And why not? High-ranking U.S. figures make speeches on this theme and their minions in countries such as El Salvador translate these speeches into the language of "practical deeds."

"Enriched" by his impressions from his visit to El Salvador, on his return to the United States, G. Shultz delivered a report on the topic "Human Rights: The Moral Aspect of U.S. Foreign Policy" in Peoria, Illinois. And again without excessive modesty, the speaker declared that "Americans can be proud of the results which we (that is, members of the present U.S. Administration) have achieved in the sphere of foreign policy." "Moral values and ideals," according to the speaker's claims, "are not an adjunct to U.S. foreign policy, but a most important aspect and powerful impulse in it..."

The head of the State Department thought it preferable not to go into detail, but he could not entirely pass over in silence his trip to El Salvador, from which he had only just returned. He declared that the U.S. Vice President and he himself "went to El Salvador and denounced the 'death squads,' not only in private but also in public." And that is all. Period. That is as far as Washington officials went in their "promotion of democracy." The speaker assured his audience that this condemnation "is having a positive influence." Indubitably! D'Aubuisson has put forward his candidacy in the presidential "elections" scheduled to be staged in El Salvador 25 March.

At the same time, reports from Washington say that the Reagan administration intends to substantially increase the number of U.S. military "adviser" and "instructors" in El Salvador this year. What is their role? In this 28 March 1983 edition the U.S. NEWSWEEK magazine has something interesting to say on this score. The magazine's correspondents (Strasser) and (Lemoyn) wrote in a dispatch from El Salvador: "U.S. military advisers give lessons in humanism: How to take people prisoner and how to count the dead correctly." The readers will appreciate the sarcasm of these U.S. journalists.

What is being perpetrated in this fief of Yankee imperialism is forcing even by no means progressive-minded Americans to utter truths which throw light not only on the putrid underside of the pro-American Salvadoran regime and its ringleaders, but also on the current setup in official Washington. No matter what they say there about the topic of "democracy"!

SURINAME ALLEGEDLY THREATENED WITH AGGRESSION

PM091011 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Mar 84 Morning Edition p3

[Own correspondent Ye. Bay dispatch: "Threat of Aggression"]

[Text] Havana -- According to Lieutenant Colonel D. Bouterse, leader of the Surinamese revolutionary process and commander in chief of the country's Armed Forces, Suriname is again under threat of armed aggression.

In recent weeks a large number of foreign mercenaries intending to invade Suriname have been gathering in neighboring French Guiana. At the same time, the propaganda campaign against the Suriname Government has been intensified in the United States and Netherland emigres who want to restore to Suriname the status of a semicolonical state dependent on foreign monopolies have considerably stepped up their activity outside the country.

ROMANOV ADDRESSES LENINGRADSKIY ELECTORATE

PM081720 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 84 pp 1-2

[LENTASS report: "Following Lenin's Course of Creation. Leningradskiy City Electoral Okrug Voters' Meeting With G.V. Romanov"]

[Excerpts] The present election campaign vividly demonstrates the unbreakable unity of the party and the people and the unanimous support by all Soviet people of its domestic and foreign policy.

This was said by participants in the meeting of voters from the Leningradskiy City Electoral Okrug No 19 with Grigoriy Vasilyevich Romanov, candidate USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities deputy from the RSFSR, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, and secretary of the party's Central Committee, held yesterday at the Oktyabrskiy Grand Concert Hall.

The meeting was opened by L.N. Zaykov, first secretary of the Leningrad Obkom.

The Soviet Union's state anthem resounded solemnly in the hall.

With tremendous enthusiasm the assembly elected an honorary presidium comprising the Politburo of the CPSU's Leninist Central Committee headed by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Grigoriy Vasilyevich Romanov, candidate USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities deputy for the Leningradskiy City Electoral Okrug No 19, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who was warmly greeted by the meeting participants, delivered a speech.

Speech by Comrade G.V. Romanov

Dear comrades!

Every election to the organs of the state power reflects the distinctiveness of the moment and the essence of the tasks that are being resolved. But there is a common feature that unites election campaigns: Each of them sums up the results of the country's development in the interelection period, focuses attention on the upcoming problems, and is a review of the gains of socialist democracy.

Our state's history dates back 66 years. It has absorbed colossal experience of the revolutionary struggle and creation. Continuity in developing and augmenting this experience and in implementing the domestic and foreign policy worked out by the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums was vividly demonstrated by the extraordinary February (1984) Plenum of the party Central Committee.

It was held during the sorrowful days of the farewell to Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, outstanding leader of the CPSU and the Soviet state, ardent patriot and convinced internationalist, and unbending fighter for the ideals of October and for world peace. In paying tribute to the bright memory of Yuriy Vladimirovich, the CPSU Central Committee plenum, which was held in an atmosphere of cohesion and unanimity, reaffirmed with new force that the CPSU's Leninist course is unshakable!

Communists and the entire Soviet people greeted the results of the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary plenum and the unanimous election of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko to the post of general secretary of the party Central Committee with ardent approval and confidence in new achievements along the road of communist building.

Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, whose name is well known in the country and in the international arena, makes an immense contribution to the elaboration and implementation of the CPSU's general line and the development and assertion of the Leninist style and of the spirit of creativity and innovation, realism, and principledness which are characteristic of all the multifaceted activity of the party's leading nucleus.

Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speech at the party Central Committee plenum is a document of great political and mobilizing importance. The propositions of this speech, whether they relate to our domestic affairs and the problems of the present and the future or to the international situation and ways of improving it, have met with a profound response in the hearts of Soviet people, who are rallying still more closely around the party's Leninist Central Committee and its Politburo.

At its regular session the CPSU Central Committee Politburo examined questions of political organizational and propaganda work in connection with the results of the Central Committee plenum. Major tasks were set. And there is no doubt that they will be fulfilled!

Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko asked me to convey his profound gratitude to the Communists and all working people of the city and the oblast for their congratulations on his election as general secretary of the party Central Committee and, for his part, he wishes you new successes in labor and wishes every Leningrad family happiness and well-being!

(These words were greeted by the meeting participants with a standing ovation and tumultuous, prolonged applause.)

Esteemed comrades!

I greatly cherish the awareness that I will be running as USSR Supreme Soviet deputy for the city of Lenin and for Leningraders. Permit me to express my sincerest gratitude to the enterprises and organization collectives which nominated me as candidate for the supreme organ of state power.

With all my heart I thank my agent, Hero of Socialist Labor Viktor Yakovlevich Tarasov, planer at the Leningradskiy Metallicheskiy Zavod Association, and all the speakers for their kind words and counsel to me. I want to assure you, dear comrades, and through you all the working people of the Leningradskiy City Electoral Okrug, that, unreservedly attributing this lofty trust to Lenin's party and its Leninist Central Committee, I will continue to devote all my knowledge and energy to serving the people and our great motherland.

The years since the last USSR Supreme Soviet elections have been marked by the fulfillment of the decisions of the 26th party congress and the implementation of the course of improving developed socialism, a course in whose creative development the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) and December (1983) Plenums were important landmarks.

In the interelection period important new heights have been scaled in economic and cultural building and peaceful conditions for Soviet people's life and labor have been ensured. And that is the main result of the CPSU's multifaceted activity!

A further increase in the country's production potential has been ensured. Our industry is developing dynamically. In the past 5 years 23 percent more industrial output was produced than in the previous 5-year period. More than 1,000 new enterprises have been constructed in this period.

Today the fatherland's industry has reached the point of producing output worth R2 billion every day. The average weekly commissioning of fixed capital also amounts to R2 billion. We have never known such rates before.

The Food Program is being persistently implemented. The material and technical base of the country's agro-industrial complex is being strengthened. And this is already having an effect on results both in arable farming and in stockraising.

Significant social transformations have been implemented. The remuneration of certain categories of workers has been increased, the material and consumer service conditions of Great Patriotic War participants and the provision of pensions for workers, employees, and kolkhoz members have been improved, and state aid for families with children has increased.

Our country has no equal in the scale of housing construction. In the 5 years a further 50 million people have moved into new accommodation. The number of cities, villages, and population centers that are fully provided with children's institutions and consumer service enterprises is growing.

The measures adopted by the party Central Committee to improve management and increase discipline, organization, and cadres' professionalism and responsibility and the persistent labor of Soviet people produced a tangible return last year. Economic development rates in most sectors have increased. Quality indicators have improved. Above-plan growth in the volumes of production and labor productivity has been achieved.

The fact that definite positive shifts have also emerged in heightening the efficiency of social production is of fundamental importance. The influence of the labor productivity factor on the growth of national income and output has increased. Expenditure per ruble of industrial output has been reduced. The material-intensiveness of social production has been cut.

All this, comrades, is the direct result of the fact that the economic strategy elaborated by the party is being consistently put into practice in the political, organizational, and economic spheres and is becoming an effective instrument for the more rational use of production, scientific, and technical potential and the achievement of higher results with lower expenditure.

As your candidate deputy I would like to note that the multisectorial economy of Leningrad and its oblast is also developing successfully. Leningraders coped with the targets for last year and the first 3 years of the 50year plan. What is very important here is that labor productivity growth rates are outstripping production volume growth rates.

Occupying leading positions in the development, assimilation, and production of many types of equipment in power machine building, electoral engineering, shipbuilding, precision machine building, and instrument and machine tool building, Leningrad enterprises and organizations today produce almost 9 percent of all new types of articles created for the first time in the country.

Since the start of the current 5-year plan alone a unique high-speed turbine, generator, and 1 million kw reactor have been manufactured for nuclear power stations. Series production of enhanced unit capacity gas pumping units, highly productive machine tools and rock excavators, instrument systems and installations for the plasma treatment of metal, and many other progressive machines and types of apparatus has been started up. Leningrad's shipbuilders have gladdened the motherland with new achievements. Kirovets tractors are rolling off the assembly line with increased engine capacity.

The development of the agrarian sector is progressing. Rural working people are successfully coping with the targets for the sale to the state of all types of arable farming and livestock products, which makes it possible to more fully satisfy the urban population's requirements for food products by means of production within the oblast.

The consistent implementation of the social section of the comprehensive plan has been and remains at the center of party and soviets' attention. During the interelection period almost 140,000 apartments and dozens of general education schools, vocational and technical colleges, children's preschool institutions, outpatient centers, hospitals, and polyclinics have been constructed in the city.

Subway lines have been increased by 11 km and the subway's total length now exceeds 72 km. Work is forging ahead on both shores of the Gulf of Finland to erect flood defenses for the city. Much has been done to protect the environment. Production of consumer goods and the volume and range of consumer services are steadily expanding.

I think there is no need to cite other facts characterizing Leningrader's successes in the economic and social spheres. These successes are indisputable, they are part and parcel of the country's common progress.

On the basis of last year's work results, Leningrad and the oblast, a number of cities and rayons, and dozens of labor collectives have been deemed, as in previous years of the 5-year plan, winners in the all-union socialist competition. They will be receiving Challenge Red Banners of the party Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the Komsomol Central Committee.

Allow me, dear comrades, to cordially congratulate you on these deserved symbols of labor prowess!

While paying tribute to what has been done, the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) and February (1984) Plenums stressed the need to maintain the tempo that has been accumulated, to develop what has been achieved, to stabilize the positive trends, and to mobilize people to practically resolve specific tasks. Life itself teaches us to measure results not so much or only against the past so much as against the needs and requirements of the future.

To do this it is above all essential to bring new reserves into operation, to make up for the lag that has been allowed to occur in a number of areas, to finish off what was supposed to have been done, and, naturally, to increase more resolutely and persistently the economy's efficiency.

On the basis of the premise that the new, 12th 5-Year Plan must be marked by the beginning of profound qualitative changes in production and must be the 5-year plan of a decisive breakthrough in the intensification of all national economic sectors, the struggle to fundamentally improve labor productivity is becoming a most important direction of all our work. The resolution of this problem is inconceivable without the acceleration of scientific and technical progress and systematic and large-scale use of the latest achievements of science, practice, and advanced experience.

The scale of the retooling of heavy and light industry, agricultural production, construction, and transportation is primarily determined by the potential of Soviet machine building. Today it has been transformed into a major multisectorial complex which has shown its ability to resolve the most complex tasks strengthening the country's economic and defense might.

At the same time the scientific and technical revolution is fundamentally changing ideas about the rates of the renewal of production. What used to be done in decades we must now learn to do in a matter of years.

As is well known, a number of special decisions determining the prospects for developing machine building have recently been adopted. Hundreds of all-union, sectorial, territorial scientific and technical programs have been elaborated and are being implemented in the country.

The main sources for economic growth are outlined in the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers "On Measures To Accelerate Scientific and Technical Progress in the National Economy." While summing up the results of past work and basing itself on them, this document contains what are in many respects new organizational and economic preconditions for stimulating the creation, production, and introduction of highly productive equipment, machinery, and mechanized complexes whose parameters match up to the highest world standards.

It is a matter of substantially improving the state of affairs along the whole front -- from fundamental research and the development of new products to their widespread practical assimilation. The collectives of many enterprises and planning and design organizations must considerably extend the production of progressive systems of machinery and equipment possessing a high level of mechanization and automation and using microprocessors, industrial robots, machine tools with digital program control, "processing centers," flexible manufacturing processes, automated planning systems, and so forth.

The country's machine tool builders and instrument makers are called upon to make a considerable contribution to developing scientific and technical progress. According to their pledges, workers in the machine and tool building industry, for example, intend to increase the production of machine tools with digital program control by 25 percent this year and that of multi-operational machine tools by more than 40 percent, to increase industrial robot production by 22 percent, and to produce several hundred robot-operated machine tool complexes.

Other ministries' plans also envisage increased production of progressive equipment, technology, and materials and lay down a list of priority tasks. This year the production of almost 4,000 new types of products will be assimilated and around 2,200 outdated products and manufacturing processes will be withdrawn from production.

One very essential factor must be borne in mind here. The steady increase in the technical level of production and the cramming of enterprises with ever more complex machines and instruments make increased demands on engineering and technical personnel and their level of skill and competence. The nature of the workers' labor is also changing, and with the course of time will change increasingly markedly. Even the quite high professional skill of an engineer, technician, or machine tool operator must already in many cases be combined with the ability to master complex automated processes and the basics of programming and design.

Qualitatively new tasks confront our higher educational establishments and technical colleges and the whole system of vocational and technical instruction in this connection: The tasks of expanding the training of specialists, workers in the mass professions, and cadres of those categories on which the competent use of computer and other complex machinery, as well as of the fully automated production facilities to which the future belongs, depends.

The party Central Committee attaches great significance to questions of improving the economic machinery, planning, and the management of the economy. As you know, considerable changes have taken place in recent years in the structure of the national economy. This is linked above all with the creation of an extensive network of production and science and production associations.

Within their framework large-scale collectives have been formed and mighty material and technical resources have been concentrated. At the same time the number of production facilities directly administered from the center has been reduced.

Some sectors have taken a further step forward: a so-called two-tier system of management has been introduced whereby large enterprises bypass sectorial main administrations and are linked with functional administrations and ministries' leadership. Many associations belonging to the Ministry of the Automotive Industry are working according to this pattern. The integral association in Minsk, the Svetlana Association in Leningrad, the integral association in Minsk, the Svetlana Association in Voronezh, and others are operating according to a similar principle. Such a progressive form as the creation of science and production complexes to resolve particular problems of great national economic significance is also continuing to develop.

At the present time, in accordance with the party Central Committee's instructions, questions of further improving the structure of ministries and departments are being studied. However, not everything is, so to speak, shipshape at either association or enterprise level. There are frequent cases where the staffs of departments, laboratories, and services are formed without due justification and in evasion of the existing normatives for staff size and where superfluous subunits are created and leadership posts are introduced for them.

It is appropriate to say here that the foundation of the science and practice of management is precision in defining cadres' functions so that no worker can cover up his own omissions by claiming ignorance of his powers or pass the buck. The task of eliminating superfluous management tiers, parallelism, and duplication in work and of enhancing personal responsibility for specific areas therefore remains topical.

The economic experiments carried out recently have an important role in boosting the productiveness of the whole system of levers and incentives for improving the economic machinery.

One of the experiments, which involves two union and three republic ministries, provides for the extension of the rights and independence of enterprises in planning and economic activity and an increase in their responsibility for work results.

The essence of this experiment -- in which 11 Leningrad machine building enterprises are also taking part -- is to provide labor collectives with a genuinely proprietorial interest in achieving high production efficiency. Higher-quality and more productive work will help to increase the size of economic incentive funds, which the collective may at its own discretion use not only to modernize and retool or provide material incentives for highly productive labor, but also to construct housing, childrens' establishments, pioneer camps, boardinghouses, and resolve other social problems.

Six major Leningrad associations, as B.I. Fomin, director general of the Elektrosila Association, has said today, have also been entrusted with carrying out another experiment, an experiment aimed at improving the remuneration of designers and technologists and at increasing their interest in fulfilling a larger amount of work to high technical standards with fewer specialists. The first results show that considerable reserves for increasing labor productivity and work quality are brought to light by stepping up the exactingness displayed toward executive personnel, simplifying the structure of subunits, and increasing the level of equipment at the workplaces of designers and technologists.

The experiments that are under way are not an end in themselves. Each is directed toward developing initiative as much as possible and strengthening a creative approach to labor. Each develops democratic principles in the management of the national economy. This work must be continued on a scale ensuring that our country begins the 12th 5-Year Plan with a well oiled economic mechanism making it possible to make fuller use of the potential of the Soviet economy.

Comrades!

Our plans are directed toward increasing production efficiency, and their social thrust both on a countrywide scale and from the standpoint of each republic, kray, and oblast always requires in-depth analysis of the state of affairs and an answer to the question of whether all measures have been taken to ensure that the best use is made of existing potential and that every decision has been carried through to completion.

I would like to draw your attention to a number of questions which the Leningrad party organization, local soviets, and their aktivs must work on more persistently. This is principally a matter of the need to further consolidate state and plan discipline.

Last year many Leningrad enterprisses failed to meet their targets for supplying output in accordance with their contracts. Not every collective is fulfilling its plan to increase the return on capital. There are associations which do not make full use of their production capacities. The shift index of metalworking equipment is growing only slowly.

It is possible, of course, to find objective causes for these and similar shortcomings: All our sectors and enterprises are, for example, connected by numerous ties of reciprocal obligations, and a hitch in one link may lead to a failure to fulfill the plan in another and sometimes the nondelivery of a single part or subassembly can negate the efforts of a large collective. The solution of certain questions of making better use of the existing potential also depends in a number of cases on more active assistance from the central economic departments and more balanced plans.

While eliminating this lack of coordination and strengthening business ties with associated enterprises, it is also necessary to make more principled assessment of managers who try to cover up wholly subjective factors -- personal inefficiency and poor organization of work -- by referring to "objective" causes. Often, and this is well known, enterprise leaders try to pass on to party organs questions which they should resolve themselves. Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko again recalled the inadmissibility of this approach at the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum.

It is necessary, comrades, to draw conclusions from this. The unconditional fulfillment of targets in terms of the products list and in conformity with contracts and all the other indicators is a most important task for all collectives and their leaders.

In the conditions existing in Leningrad, where a considerable number of enterprises and organizations which are called upon to exert an ever-increasing influence on the growth of the social productivity of labor are concentrated, the very rapid introduction of scientific discoveries, new developments, and progressive manufacturing processes assumes great significance. Quite a lot has been gained but by no means everything is being done in this regard.

The standard and quality of a number of articles still do not match up to modern demands. This applies to certain types of machine tools, diesel engines, and machines for light industry and the food industry. Many units, instruments, and structural components are still significantly heavier and less economical than the corresponding domestic and foreign models.

On the whole only slightly more than one-third of the output liable to certification is in the top quality category: This is lower than the indicator achieved in the country. And it means that the advantages of concentration and specialization, the advantages of associations and the combination of science and production are still not being sufficiently exploited. There is work to do in this direction too.

Many difficulties and "bottlenecks" in the national economy, including in Leningrad enterprises, are a direct consequence of a wasteful attitude toward semimanufactures, raw materials, and fuel. Even with all its riches the country's potential is not limitless. And today it is a question of using these riches not just better and not just more carefully, but with the utmost efficiency.

That is why the targets that have been set for reducing expenditure of labor, metal, fuel, and electric power must be viewed as minimum targets. And here too Leningraders have a large field of activity. Moreover, it is not simply a question of imposing stricter order in norm setting, accounting, and the monitoring of the expenditure of material resources.

Special attention should be devoted to elaborating and introducing low-waste equipment, progressive molding methods, power metallurgy, and plasma cutting; in short, to those avenues which, as well as saving labor, ensure substantial savings of raw and semifinished materials. It is also necessary to change attitudes to questions of equipment design and to be concerned to reduce unit expenditure of metal per unit of capacity and reduce the weight and size of the equipment created.

Of course, you cannot call these questions simple. They cannot be solved in one sitting. It is necessary to develop positive trends more insistently, to resolutely overcome inertia, rely more extensively on initiative, and step up organizational and political work to ensure fulfillment of the tasks set by the party. I will permit myself to offer one piece of advice in this connection.

This is not the first year in the struggle to fulfill and overfulfill plans that widespread competition has brought success to Leningraders under the slogan "From high quality in each person's work to high efficiency in the collective's labor!" This competition proves its worth from every standpoint. And at the same time, it is very important, I think, to fill this competition with new content each day and enrich it with all the new things born of the masses' creativity.

I am talking about such well-known initiatives as the struggle to reduce the time taken to develop and introduce new equipment; to secure the entire growth in output at existing production facilities and to secure growth in the amount of research while actually reducing the number of personnel; and to ensure that every new article is awarded the state Seal of Quality and achieve the entire growth in production without increasing expenditure of rolled metal.

A considerable additional effect could be provided by the universal dissemination of the initiative of the industrial enterprises and design and construction organizations on comprehensively resolving questions of constructing the Sayano-Shushenskaya GES; the experience of labor collaboration among the Leningrad transport center's collectives of sailors, railroad workers, truckers, and river workers; and the Volkhov aluminum plant collective's experience of the utilization of secondary energy resources.

Creatively using the initiatives of Muscovites, the labor collectives of the Ukraine and Belorussia, and a number of the country's industrial centers and the quest of many Leningrad enterprises, the working people of the V.I. Lenin Nevskiy Zavod, Svetlana, and Fosforit Associations, the I.Ye. Yegorov Freight Car Building Plant, and the V.P. Nogin Weaving and Spinning Factory have pledged to secure the entire increase in production volume via technical progress, the maximum loading of equipment, and the saving of resources.

The thoughts, proposals, and practical actions of hundreds of thousands of workers from Leningrad and the oblast lie behind each of these initiatives. A desire to do more for the country and for the people lies behind each of them. That is why it is very important to accumulate this initiative and purposefully direct it toward the achievement of higher results in labor.

As is well known, ensuring a 1-percent above-plan growth in labor productivity and an additional 0.5-percent reduction in output prime cost constitutes the core of the pledges adopted for the current year. Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko's proposal that all the funds and resources thereby obtained be channeled into improving working and living conditions and medical services and into housing construction has been perceived as a new manifestation of the party's concern for Soviet people's welfare.

It is a matter of honor for each collective to back up its pledges with competent calculations and weighty organizational and technical measures. Their implementation must be constantly monitored to ensure that every worker has a sense of his involvement in the nationwide campaign to overfulfill targets.

Allow me to express my confidence that precisely this approach will be ensured in all sectors of the struggle to fulfill the targets and socialist pledges of the 4th year and the 11th 5-Year Plan as a whole.

Comrades!

In the conditions of developed socialism, economic progress is ever more closely linked with the sociopolitical and spiritual progress of the Soviet state.

The main trend of the processes which are taking place is that our society's unity has still further strengthened and that all classes and social groups and all the country's nations and ethnic groups have drawn ever closer together.

The main direction of the development of the Soviet political system is the consistent development of socialist democracy and the widespread involvement of the masses in the administration of state affairs. The role of public organizations is increasing. There is more openness in the activities of party and state organs.

The systematic briefing of the population on the activities of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers has been greeted with profound approval by working people. Meetings between leaders of party, soviet, and economic organs of the population, replies to questions that perturb people, and reports on the activities of departments and institutions are becoming firmly established in practice.

To consult the people is a norm of our life. Vivid examples of this are the recently adopted USSR law on labor collectives and the CPSU Central Committee's draft reform of general educational and vocational schools, which has been submitted for nationwide discussion.

Our system's democracy is reflected most clearly in the activity of the soviets of people's deputies. The party takes constant care to enhance their role, expand their powers, and strengthen the link between deputies and the people. The leadership of local soviets has been strengthened and positive experience in their activities is being publicized more widely. The emphasis here is on ensuring that every law works and that the provisions of every law are strictly implemented.

More than 16,000 deputies of all levels -- from the Supreme Soviet to the rural soviet -- live and work in Leningrad Oblast. They are authoritative workers and working people from various spheres of the national economy, science, and culture. They listen keenly and attentively to the voice of the people and boldly tackle the solution of pressing problems.

A considerable amount of work has been carried out on voters' instructions in the period between the elections. Its scope ranges from capital repairs of housing to the accelerated commissioning of the new subway lines and automatic telephone exchanges, from the construction of maternity homes, schools, and sports facilities to the implementation of citizens' many personal requests.

But it must be said outright that not all the instructions have been carried out. There is a lag in the integrated development of the new microrayons of Shuvalovo-Ozerki and Rzhevka-Porokhovyye and of the southwest of the Kirovskiy and Krasnoselskiy Rayons, where a shortage of trade and consumer service facilities and children's and medical establishments is experienced.

However, I believe that the fault here lies not so much with the deputies as with the organizations and the leaders whose official duty it is to resolve the questions that are raised. This also applies fully to the justified criticism on the subject of interruptions in the sale of certain types of consumer goods -- goods bearing the Leningrad trademark -- and on the subject of their low quality.

Thus last year at 26 of the 82 enterprises at which quality control inspections were carried out all the consumer goods were substandard. Stores ceased to accept television sets produced at the Kozitskiy and Pozitron Associations, accordions from the Krasnyy Partizan Factory, metal kitchenware, curtain rails, and children's toys. This list, unfortunately, could be continued.

Soviets' attention must be focused primarily on eliminating such shortcomings and resolving all questions that affect people's interests. Their rights, functions, and obligations have increased immeasurably, especially in matters relating directly to the fulfillment of economic and social development plans by all enterprises on the territory under their jurisdiction, regardless of their sectorial affiliation. People's Control organs, too, must adopt a stricter approach to these questions.

The party is constantly studying and improving the system of links with the working people via all channels. One of these is work with the working people's written and verbal appeals. In accordance with the party Central Committee's demands, the practice of the examination of citizens' letters and the organization of the reception of citizens is being thoughtfully improved in Leningrad party and soviet organs, and measures are being adopted to enhance officials' responsibility for eliminating the causes which lead to criticism and complaints.

As a result, the opening hours of many enterprises in the service sphere and the municipal economy have been changed. The reception of citizens by the leaders of city and rayon organs has become widespread. Economic leaders have adopted the practice of reporting on work with working people's complaints and requests at party and workers' meetings and at people's places of residence.

At the same time, there are also numerous instances of a formalistic attitude toward people's needs. Certain trade union organizations do not display principle in ensuring proper monitoring of the observance of labor legislation.

Some complaints from Leningraders reach central organs, which often indicates not only that specific questions have not been solved locally, but also that people at local level have been unable to explain precisely why a certain decision has been adopted and not another one.

It is necessary persistently to eradicate attempts to gloss over criticism or to take no notice of it and to eliminate instances of rudeness, red tape, and bureaucracy. In each such case people must be made answerable with all the rigor of party and official responsibility.

Socialist democracy and the very nature of our society are incompatible with indiscipline and the violation of the laws and of the principles of our morality. The party is true to Lenin's behest to "...work indefatigably to create discipline and self-discipline and to strengthen organization, order, and businesslike efficiency everywhere...."

As you know, much has already been done in this respect. But the reinforcement of discipline and the establishment of proper order cannot be approached as a campaign in general, stillless, a short-term campaign. It is a daily task which must be resolved at all levels of the social organization -- from the individual to society as a whole; throughout the production chain -- from worker to minister; and by all available means -- economic, administrative, and educational. Any violation of discipline affects us all in one way or another, and therefore the level of organization and discipline has been and remains the concern of the whole party and the whole people.

Our society is a society of working people. A person's prestige and his material well-being are determined by the quantity and the quality of his labor for the good of the country. The measures now being taken to improve distribution relations are dictated precisely by concern to implement unservingly the fundamental principle of socialism -- "to each according to his labor."

The efforts of the party and the state are concentrated here on resolving several interconnected tasks.

First, it is necessary to further improve material and moral incentives, to make a fair assessment of each person's labor contribution, and to prevent wage-leveling. It is no secret that there are still many cases where undeserved bonuses are handed out, wages are paid essentially simply for attendance at work, and slipshod and slovenly workers and drunkards enjoy the same benefits and privileges as conscientious workers. It must be made a rule that worthy workers must be the first to receive good wages, apartments, and sanatorium passes. And a slacker must be dealt with appropriately: Let him feel the "results" of his work in his pocket and in his comrades' attitude to him.

Second, the steady enhancement of the people's well-being is only possible if full account is taken of objective economic laws and above all the law of preferential growth of labor productivity in relation to the growth in wages. The infringement of this demand exerts an adverse influence on the whole of economic life.

Changes for the better became apparent last year. Labor productivity in the country grew faster than wages, and preferential growth in the production of consumer goods was ensured. This was largely helped by the wider dissemination of collective forms of labor organization and labor incentives, the team contract, and comprehensive, integral-process, and financially autonomous teams. In accordance with the demands of the party Central Committee, these trends in work must be persistently continued.

Third, we must significantly intensify work on elevating the Soviet man's material and spiritual needs. Both the bourgeois cult of possessions and the leftist advocacy of poverty and asceticism are alien to most Soviet people. Shaping the individual's socialist interests and our model of consumption and instilling sensible needs is a complex but pressing problem. As for speculators, bribetakers, parasites, people who misappropriate socialist property, and those who like to grab as much from society as possible, our party and state will wage a resolute and uncompromising struggle against such elements, relying on the people's full support.

The further we advance along the path of social progress and the greater the complexity and scale of our tasks are, the greater the place that work with people occupies in the party's policy. The molding of the new man is not only a most important objective but also an indispensable prerequisite of communist construction.

The CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum put forward as the main objective that of bringing the content and forms of ideological and mass political work into line with the tasks of improving developed socialism. The link between this work and life is being strengthened and its topicality, militancy, and fruitfulness are being enhanced. Special attention is being paid to the education of young people -- our replacements and our future.

Leningrad party, Komsomol, and trade union organizations have accumulated considerable experience in political work among the masses. The concern of party, war, and labor veterans for the young generation deserves the most cordial words of appreciation. The country's spiritual life is being enriched by many works of literature and art created by masters from the city on the Neva.

But when it comes to the ideological backup of the tasks that are to be resolved, there is no and there cannot be any complacency. The party will continue to pay the closest attention to this sector as one of the most important integral parts of communist construction.

Comrades!

Next year we will commemorate a day which is dear to all our families, to everyone -- the 40th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War. And who but we Soviet people know the true price of peaceful skies overhead. Expressing the unanimous will of the country's working people, the CPSU persistently and consistently pursues its Leninist foreign policy -- the policy of peace and people's security.

The situation on the planet has now been seriously exacerbated through the fault of aggressive imperialist circles, the arms race has intensified, and hotbeds of military conflicts exist in various parts of the globe. The reasons for this are well known. They lie in the deisre of the most bellicose forces of the United States and NATO countries to tip the scales in their own favor and to secure dominating positions.

The deployment of U.S. first-strike missiles in Western Europe was received by the world public as a step extremely hostile to the cause of peace and as a direct threat to the security of the USSR and its allies. This new stage of nuclear escalation led to the breakdown of the Geneva talks and intensified not only military but also political tension.

In these circumstances the Soviet state and its allies are forced to take retaliatory measures to maintain the military-strategic equilibrium and safeguard the vital interests of the socialist countries. We will not allow this equilibrium to be upset. We will never under any circumstances forgo our security!

As a counterweight to the adventurism and recklessness of imperialism, the Soviet Union believed and continues to believe that it is possible to discuss any problems whose resolution would promote the normalization of the international climate. We have put forward a whole range of positive initiatives of truly historic significance.

The Soviet Union has pledged not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. Together with our Warsaw Pact allies we have proposed to the NATO countries to conclude an agreement on the nonuse of military force against each other. Our country is in favor of averting an arms race in space. If the West is ready, we can embark on the practical solution of questions at the Vienna talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe. The Soviet Union has proposed to the United States a freeze of nuclear arms.

These and other foreign policy proposals of the USSR are dictated by awareness of its high responsibility for the fate of peace. The policy of strengthening peace, curbing the arms race, and developing cooperation among all states is precisely and clearly expressed in the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and other political documents of the Communist Party and the Soviet state.

It has been confirmed with new force by the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum, at which Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko declared authoritatively and with utmost clarity that the Soviet Union, while displaying readiness to use any opportunity to resume political dialogue on the only acceptable terms of equality and identical security, resolutely rejects attempts to impose "strong-arm diplomacy" on us. That is a hopeless cause!

As you know, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo approved the results of the meetings and talks between Comrade K.U. Chernenko and other leaders of the CPSU and the Soviet state and the heads of the foreign delegations that were in our country in connection with the death of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov. Our policy is an honest policy whose highest aim is peace for the peoples!

Our valiant Armed Forces are standing guard over the peace and security of October's motherland and of its friends and allies. The Communist Party and the Soviet state will continue to show tireless concern for strengthening the country's defense capability, will equip the Army and Navy with everything necessary, and will do everything to avert the threat of a nuclear war and preserve peace for present and future generations!

Comrades!

Proceeding from the successes in socialist construction and in implementing economic, social, and cultural tasks, the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) and February (1984) Plenums gave an accurate and realistic assessment of what has been achieved, and a critical analysis of the shortcomings and unsolved tasks and their causes. This enables us to see more clearly the country's present and future in their real dynamics and equips party organizations and labor collectives with clear guidelines as to how to develop and stimulate the working people's initiative and how and where to channel it.

Party committee plenums, party aktiv meetings, and meetings in primary party organizations are being held on the results of the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum. Their aim is to strengthen further the cohesion of the party ranks, widen the links between the party and the people, and mobilize the working people to fulfill unconditionally the plan targets and pledges for the current year of the 5-year plan. The soviets of people's deputies, labor collectives, trade unions, and Komsomol are defining ways of implementing the tasks put forward by the party.

We look to the future with optimism. Whether it is a question of enhancing economic efficiency, improving ideologial work, or developing the whole range of social relations, the party Central Committee sets an example of sobriety in its assessments, a considered approach in its decisions, and firmness in pursuing the planned course. The party will continue to pursue this line!

The political platform formulated in the CPSU Central Committee address to all voters and citizens of the USSR contains clear-cut aims and guidelines for the further growth of our motherland's economic and defense might, for enhancing the people's well-being, and for upholding and strengthening peace on the planet.

And there is no doubt that, participating in the elections, the Leningraders, like all Soviet people will cast their votes for this platform and for the domestic and foreign policy of the Leninist party, whose highest aim was and still is our people's happiness and the triumph of communism's great cause!

Allow me, dear comrades, to cordially thank you once again for the great trust you have shown in me.

I wish you, the participants in the election meeting, and all Leningraders good health, happiness, and new successes in your life and work.

(Comrade G.V. Romanov's speech was listened to with great attention and was repeatedly interrupted by applause.)

The meeting was declared closed. The USSR state anthem was played.

Yesterday morning G.V. Romanov visited the Izhorskiy Zavod association and acquainted himself with the enterprise's work in increasing the production of equipment for AESes.

He inspected the production of nuclear power machinery, visited the construction of a 5000 sheet rolling mill and a new forging and pressing shop, talked with workers and engineering and technical personnel, and asked about their working and living conditions.

He discussed with the association leaders and the party-economic aktiv the problems of further intensifying production and of accelerating scientific and technical progress and the course of the economic experiments being carried out in the enterprise to improve the remuneration of designers and technologists.

It was emphasized that, in conformity with the requirements of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) and February (1984) Plenums and the instructions of Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, it is important, while relying on the results achieved, to consolidate the positive trends in the development of the economy and to maintain the momentum and general positive mood for action. The need to increase the efficiency and quality of all work and to make fuller use of the existing potential of all types of resources was noted.

G.V. Romanov inspected the enterprises' vocational and technical college complex and talked with masters of industrial training and students at the SGPTU-6 [expansion unknown].

KUNAYEV ADDRESSES ALMA-ATA VOTERS MEETING

PM080945 Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 84 pp 1-3

[KAZTAG report: "Marching Onward, Achieving More. Voters' Meeting With D.A. Kunayev"]

[Excerpts] The political and production activity of the republic's working people is increasing as USSR Supreme Soviet election day draws nearer. The people of Kazakhstan are responding to the CPSU Central Committee address to all voters and citizens in the country, to the decisions of the party Central Committee's extraordinary plenum, and to the speech there by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, by intensifying the struggle for the successful implementation of the 26th CPSU Congress plans. In preparing for the elections to the country's supreme organ of state power, the voters are once again expressing unanimous approval and warm support for the domestic and foreign policy of the Communist Party and its Leninist Central Committee. Socialist competition for an above-plan increase in labor productivity, an additional reduction in output prime costs, and an increased contribution to the further strengthening of the socialist motherland's economic and defense might is broadening.

It was in a mood of elation that the voters of Alma-Ata's No 617 Leninskiy Electoral Okrug came to the V.I. Lenin Palace in Alma-Ata on 23 February to meet with Dinmukhamed Akhmedovich Kunayev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee, and candidate deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union for this okrug.

In the presidium were Comrade D.A. Kunayev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee; Comrades K.M. Aukhadiyev, B.A. Ashimov, V.A. Grebenyuk, K.K. Kazybayev, Z.K. Kamalidenov, O.S. Miroshkhin, N.A. Nazarbayev, Yu.N. Trofimov, and D.T. Yazov, members of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee Bureau; S.S. Dzhiyenbayev, candidate member of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee Bureau, senior party and soviet officials, production pacemakers, party and labor veterans, figures from the spheres of science and culture, and representatives of the city's public.

The meeting's opening speech was delivered by A.D. Koychumanov, first secretary of Alma-Ata party Gorkom.

An honorary presidium comprising the Leninist CPSU Central Committee Politburo was enthusiastically elected.

Comrade D.A. Kunayev, who was warmly greeted by those present, then delivered a speech.

Comrade D.A. Kunayev's Speech

Dear comrades!

The voters of Alma-Ata-Leninskiy Electoral Okrug have placed great confidence in me by nominating me once more as candidate deputy to our country's supreme organ of state power.

I regard this confidence as a lofty pledge for the future and a direct obligation to continue to conscientiously and honorably serve the great cause of Lenin's party and the Soviet people. (prolonged applause)

From the bottom of my heart I would like to express profound gratitude to my agent, Vladimir Ivanovich Istomin, to the canvassers, and to all the comrades who have spoken here with their kind words on my behalf.

I am profoundly grateful to you and, through you, to the voters of the Alma-Ata-Leninskiy Electoral Okrug for the high honor accorded me.

As a Communist, I view your confidence and warm words as confidence in the dear Leninist party, its correct political course, and its far-sighted domestic and foreign policy, the main aim of which is the continued and all-round development of the country's economy, the improvement of the Soviet people's well-being, and the strengthening of peace throughout the world. (prolonged applause)

Comrades!

Our party, the country, and all progressive mankind have suffered a grave loss -- the life of Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, fervent champion of the cause of communism and peace and loyal son of the party and the Soviet people, has ended abruptly.

During the sorrowful days of mourning, Soviet people rallied even closer around the party Central Committee and greeted with full approval the decisions of the Central Committee's extraordinary February (1984) Plenum, which clearly stressed that the CPSU and the Soviet state will continue to steadfastly implement a Leninist domestic and foreign policy -- a policy of peace, creation, and social progress.

The Central Committee plenum unanimously elected Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko -- a prominent figure of our party and state -- to be general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

A loyal comrade-in-arms of such outstanding figures as Leonid Ilich Brezhnev and Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko has tremendous prestige, valuable experience in party and state activity, and all the qualities of a leader of the Leninist type who has long enjoyed the Soviet people's profound respect and deserved confidence. (prolonged applause)

By electing Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko to the post of general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, our party's Central Committee has ensured the complete continuity of its Leninist course.

The CPSU Central Committee February (1984) Plenum materials and Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko's programmatic speech at the plenum clearly emphasize the unshakability of the party's main course and its determination to continue doing everything for the further strengthening of the country's economic and defense might, the growth of the Soviet people's well-being, and the comprehensive development and improvement of socialist democracy.

The world press greeted with tremendous attention Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speech, which touched on very burning questions of the present time -- the questions of preserving and strengthening peace.

His meetings with a number of statesmen confirmed the Soviet Union's determination to exclude mistrust, tension, and threats from international relations. At the same time, it was emphasized that the Soviet Union will do everything necessary to ensure the interests of its own security and that of its allies.

The speakers from this rostrum have quite rightly said that Soviet Kazakhstan's working people, like all Soviet people, wholly and fully support the CPSU Central Committee February (1984) Plenum decisions and, guided by the decisions of the 26th party congress and of subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums, will make every effort to successfully fulfill the targets of the 11th 5-Year Plan and its decisive 4th year.

The direction taken by the party of strengthening party, state, and labor discipline in every possible way and enhancing cadres' responsibility and working people's creative activeness has met with the people's undivided support.

The party is going to the elections with the precise and clear program set forth in the CPSU Central Committee address to all USSR voters and citizens, which reflects the working people's vital interests.

Its Leninist course elicits the Soviet people's unanimous support and their high labor and political activeness and contributes to our monolithic cohesion around the CPSU and its collective nucleus and militant staff -- the Central Committee.

Comrades!

It is with great pleasure that I convey to you and, through you, to all people of Alma-Ata warm greetings and cordial wishes for health and new labor successes in all your creative deeds from Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of our party's Central Committee. (tumultuous applause)

Comrades!

The upcoming elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet are a great event in the life of the country. The elected deputies will form the organs that will implement the working people's will. According to the practice which has come about, the results of the path traveled are summed up and the new tasks of economic and cultural building are outlined during the election campaign. The working people's concrete and committed participation in all this is a genuine manifestation of socialist democracy in action.

As your deputy, I have sought to approach with the utmost responsibility the fulfillment of my duties, the realization of the instructions you have issued, and the resolution of the tasks of further developing the economy, science, and culture and improving the life and daily round of the working people of the republic, Alma-Ata City, and your electoral okrug. In my activity I have always endeavored to be of use to the voters. You can rest assured that this will continue to be the case. (prolonged applause)

Everything the party plans is confidently based on what the Soviet people have already achieved in their multifaceted, strenuous, and creative labor.

What, comrades, has characterized the period since the previous USSR Supreme Soviet elections?

This time has been saturated with a creative quest, strenuous labor, and major achievements by the party and people. It has been marked by very important sociopolitical events which, it may boldly be said, are of epoch-making significance.

The determining events among them were the 26th congress, the CPSU Central Committee May and November (1982) and June and December (1983) Plenums, and Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's speeches.

The 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation, which was widely celebrated by the Soviet people and by all progressive mankind, was a vivid demonstration of the unbreakable Leninist friendship of the peoples, of the triumph of the CPSU's Leninist nationalities policy and the principles of socialist internationalism.

Our country's economic and spiritual potential has grown immeasurably during this time, and its defense and international prestige have strengthened. Confidently fulfilling the 26th CPSU Congress decisions, the country has made great new achievements.

The people's material and spiritual living standards are steadily growing on the basis of the further comprehensive development of the economy, science, and culture. The national income has increased more than 10 percent since the last elections.

The volume of industrial production in the country as a whole has increased by 4 percent -- the highest indicator in recent years. Social labor productivity has increased by 3.5 percent. Approximately 4,000 new types of machinery, equipment, instruments, materials, and highly efficient technological processes have been assimilated.

Workers of the agro-industrial complex have worked well. The increase in agricultural output amounted to R6.4 billion. Procurements of grain, livestock, poultry, milk, eggs, and other products of arable farming and livestock raising have increased. Questions on the countryside's social development are being efficiently resolved and on a wide scale.

The scope of capital construction is well known. Last year the commissioning of new fixed capital increased almost 4.5 percent. Fixed capital worth more than R146 billion was commissioned. Such volumes have never been achieved before. During the period between elections, the economy, science, and culture of the land of the soviets have scaled new, greater heights -- which has created good foundations for further raising the Soviet people's living standards.

Today, comrades, it is clear to everyone that happiness, peace, and prosperity for every working Soviet family and every Soviet working person is the most important thing in our party's policy.

Increasing concern for veterans, mothers, children, and young people has become the immutable law of society. Since the last elections, millions of people have moved into well-appointed apartments. The population's social security is steadily improving. Public consumption funds have increased.

Society's spiritual potential is being increasingly and fully revealed, and its political, economic, and social level is growing.

Today our state, the whole people has a unified, strong, and indivisible economic organism.

The country as a whole is successfully resolving all the chief questions of political and social development.

Of course, we still have many unresolved problems, but the party and the people are persistently working to realize them, and the positive results are telling everywhere. We must not relax this work, striving everywhere for the fullest fulfillment of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, the 15th Kazakh Communist Party Congress, and the CPSU Central Committee May and November (1982) and June and December (1983) Plenums. This is our general direction, and we will not turn aside from this path anywhere.

Our unified all-Soviet culture -- socialist in content and international in spirit -- is confidently developing.

Finally, our new historic community of people -- the Soviet people -- is strengthening from day to day.

The country's prestige in the international arena is stronger and weightier than ever.

The great Lenin dreamed of the time when triumphant socialism would increasingly and fully influence the course of world history by its example, when it would become a reliable guideline for the real, just solution of all the historic problems facing mankind.

You and I are living and acting in just such a time, dear comrades! (prolonged applause)

Soviet Kazakhstan -- land of the virgin land and space exploit of the great land of the soviets -- is also confidently developing together with the whole country. Everything in which our republic is rich and for which it is renowned is augmented by the joint efforts of its working people, people of all ages and trades, and faithfully serves and will serve the interests of the entire Soviet people and the socialist community and our great common cause -- the building of communism.

The republic's industrial might is growing. Unique territorial production complexes which would be a credit to any of the world's developed countries are successfully developing.

Very rich stocks of natural resources have been and are being drawn into economic circulation. New deposits have been discovered, including very promising ones for oil and gas.

More than 300 industrial enterprises, large shops, and production facilities equipped with the last word in science and technology have been commissioned during this time. They enrich the republic's industrial geography and bring its diversified industry to a qualitatively new level.

They include the new power units at the Ekibastuz GRES, the Karaganda Metallurgical Combine's tinplate shop, the first stage of the "Chemkentshina" Association, the slag-processing complex at the Leningorsk Polymetal Combine, large capacities at the Novodzhambulskiy Phosphorus Combine, and the Donskoy Mining and Enriching Combine, the Pavlodar-Chimkent Oil Pipeline, the Petropavlovsk-Kokchetav Petroleum Products Pipeline, and many other important projects.

By the will of the party and the labor of the Soviet people, our republic is becoming one of the country's major fuel and energy bases. We now generate approximately 70 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity per year alone.

Kasakhstan has become a region of "large-scale chemistry."

Our ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, machine-building, and metalworking, and coal and petrochemical industries are confidently developing, and production of quality goods for the people is growing.

All this and much more, comrades, is being done in the name of further strengthening the country's economic and defense might, in full accordance with the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the 15th Kazakh Communist Party Congress.

The strenuous labor of the people of Kazakhstan last year was crowned with good results. Thus, you already know that the volume of industrial production increased by 4.5 percent (the plan required 3.2 percent). An increase of more than R1 billion worth of industrial output was obtained. Two-thirds of this was the result of higher labor productivity.

The volumes of capital construction are increasing. All forms of transportation and communication, state and commission trade, and municipal and consumer services for the population are enjoying further development.

Data on this score were recently cited at the 11th Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee Plenum and the 26th Alma-Ata Oblast Party Conference. I do not think there is any need to repeat myself. Every one of us here can see the positive changes for himself.

Thus, for example, the republic's agro-industrial potential is steadily growing.

The strong foundations of our rural economy were laid by the party's Leninist agrarian policy and the heroic virgin land epic. What the first virgin land farmers did serves and will continue to reliably serve many future generations.

Yes, on the basis of the very strictest demands, we are resolving the questions of the development of the modern rural economy.

This is yielding a tangible return. Judge for yourselves. During 1979-1983, the country received from Kazakhstan approximately 80 million metric tons of high-quality grain, 6.8 million metric tons of meat, 11.6 million metric tons of milk, and many other products of arable farming and livestock raising.

Even last year, which was exceptionally complex and arid, Kazakhstan poured 908 million poods of high-quality grain into the motherland's granaries.

During the period between electons, R3.7 billion was invested in irrigated arable farming alone -- R300 million more than during the time between the previous electons. This made it possible to sharply increase the production of rice, corn grain, vegetables, and potatoes in addition to grain.

The volumes, comrades, are such as were not even dreamed of before the virgin lands were opened up.

All this is our Kazakh contribution to the country's Food Program, which in realizing the republic has been allocated an honorable and very responsible place.

Comrades!

The republic's economic successes graphically confirm the profound vitality and correctness of the course elaborated by the 26th CPSU Congress and are a very reliable precondition for the further growth of the working people's well-being and their spiritual culture.

The working people's real incomes have increased by 10.4 percent since the last elections. At the same time, there has been a substantial increase in social consumption funds.

Housing construction is being conducted on a large scale.

More than 16,000 square meters of housing are constructed in the republic every 24 hours, and 300 families move into new accommodations.

Public health has enjoyed further development. The network of health and children's preschool establishments has increased.

The progress in public education, science, and culture is gratifying.

Over half a million young men and women are studying at 55 VUZes and hundreds of technical schools. The role of vocational and technical schools is increasing.

The CPSU Central Committee draft on the reform of the general educational school was a new manifestation of the party's concern for the next generation. Working people are currently scrutinizing it closely and are making useful suggestions and observations.

In short, comrades, in all spheres of our life one can see considerable changes which show that the only way to make our reality better and more beautiful is through honest and fruitful labor.

Comrades! The foundation of what has been done and what remains to be done is the invincible moral and political unity of Soviet society, its close cohesion around the Leninist party, and the CPSU's Leninist nationalities policy.

The celebration of the 250th anniversary of Kazakhstan's voluntary incorporation into Russia was striking evidence of genuine internationalism.

It convincingly again demonstrated that there has never been a force in the world more wonderful, stronger, and more vital than the indissoluble Leninist friendship of the peoples, their loyalty to the ideals of Marxism-Leninism, and their monolithic fraternity on the path to their common cherished goal -- communism. (prolonged applause)

The Kazakh SSR has been awarded its fifth order -- the Order of Lenin.

It is our common order, for in all the republic's achievements and labor accomplishments, you will find the worthy labor of the sons and daughters of the whole of multinational Soviet Kazakhstan.

Let us carry on in this way, carefully preserving and strengthening the friendship of the peoples bequeathed to us by Lenin! (tumultuous applause)

In all the republic's labor accomplishments, you will find the keen minds and energy of the working class and its agrarian detachment, the kolkhoz peasantry, of the scientific, technical, and creative intelligentsia, of our veterans and remarkable young people.

Permit me, dear comrades, on behalf of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee, to heartily thank all of you and, through you, all the people of Kazakhstan for actively participating in the fulfillment of the plans and targets of the 11th 5-Year Plan and to wish you new successes in the persistent implementation of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and 15th Kazakh Communist Party Congress. (prolonged applause)

Comrades! Today, as your candidate deputy, I must make a special mention of the substantial contribution of the working people of Alma-Ata and the capital's oblast to the economic and cultural development of the republic as a whole.

Since the last elections, much has been done in all spheres of socioeconomic development in the oblast and in the city. This has recently been talked about in detail.

I would not want to repeat what has already been said. However, I do believe it is necessary to dwell on certain matters which directly concern the republic's capital -- Alma-Ata.

The award of the Order of Lenin to Alma-Ata was a great and joyous event. The motherland has highly rated its services to the revolutionary movement, its contribution to the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War, and the strengthening and developing of the economy and culture.

Permit me, dear comrade voters, to wholeheartedly congratulate you on this well deserved award, to which your concerted labor has undoubtedly contributed, and to wish you new successes. (prolonged applause)

For its all-union socialist competition results in 1983, Alma-Ata received a CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee Challenge Red Banner.

Allow me, comrades, to warmly congratulate all of you on this great award as well. (prolonged applause)

Yes, comrades, today we can all see for ourselves the considerable changes in our beautiful Alma-Ata.

It is confidently growing in importance as a major modern center of highly developed industry, power engineering, and machine building.

By and large, Alma-Ata's industry is operating stably -- since 1979 output has increased by more than 17 percent. Nearly four-fifths of the increase in output is due to improved labor productivity. The amount of output bearing the state Seal of Quality has nearly tripled.

Leading the way in socialist competition to increase industrial production and improve the quality of labor are the collectives of the heavy machine building plant, the plant named for the 20th anniversary of October, the cotton combine, the "Alma-Ata" Furniture Association, and many other enterprises and associations.

Alma-Ata is a major center for the production of quality consumer goods. Nearly R3 billion worth of goods are produced annually. The leading collectives' struggle for high labor productivity is under way everywhere.

Our city is being adorned with unique buildings and architectural complexes.

Since the last elections, the city's economy has assimilated R3.4 billion in capital investments. In the 5-year period, over 2 million square meters of housing have been commissioned and more than 40,000 families have moved into new accommodations.

The enterprises and collectives of Alma-Ata-Leninskiy Electoral Okrug, which includes the capital's Leninskiy Rayon and part of Alatauskiy and Auezovskiy Rayons, are making a large and ever increasing contribution to the city's economy. These rayons' working people as a whole completed last year's plans ahead of schedule. The collectives of the Kirov Plant, the bearing repair plant, the electric car plant, the baking industry association, the TETS-2, the Central Service Station, and others are working without interruption.

There are many people in the okrug whose names and deeds are famous outside the republic. Since the last elections, 655 people have received high government awards -- the USSR order and medals -- and 13 have joined the constellation of USSR and Kazakh SSR State Prize winners. Hundreds have been socialist competition winners.

In short, the number of leading workers, 5-year plan innovators, and true heroes of our time is growing and multiplying. This is remarkable, dear comrades!

However, if one views the deeds from the standpoint of the great demands of the December (1983) and extraordinary February CPSU Central Committee Plenums and the programmatic speech by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, one cannot avoid noticing a whole lot of untapped reserves and possibilities. A fair number of enterprises in Alma-Ata and oblast are still failing to meet the plan targets. In a number of places, the start-up of planned capacities is poor and measures relating to economy and thrift leave much to be desired. Losses of work time are not being reduced quickly enough.

It is alarming to see many enterprises failing to fulfill delivery contracts.

There are many unresolved problems in the matter of increasing the rate of consumer goods production and significantly improving their quality, especially goods for children.

There are things to be done, as you can see. The main thing now is to consolidate and raise the growth rate that has been achieved, and to stabilize and multiply the positive trends and processes of our economic development.

In all this we must above all make absolutely sure that we fulfill and overfulfill the targets of the 4th year of the 11th 5-Year Plan and the socialist pledges. It is particularly necessary to achieve an above-plan increase of at least 1 percent in labor productivity everywhere and an extra 0.5 percent reduction in the prime cost of output.

This applies to industry and capital construction, where the pace and quality of work, alas, sometimes still fall short of the requirements.

In the current 5-year plan alone, capital investments of R200 million have remained unassimilated in Alma-Ata. This means that the city, the republic, and the country have failed to receive much valuable output; dozens of social, cultural, and consumer facilities; and thousands of apartments because of people's negligence, poor interdepartmental liaison, and a low standard of discipline.

It is quite obvious that this cannot continue.

In the remaining 2 years of the 5-year plan, a number of major new facilities and capacities are to be commissioned in literally all the city and oblast sectors. In Alma-Ata alone, four new schools have to be built, along with two hospitals and two polyclinics and five trade and consumer facilities, while the construction of the Kazakh S.M. Kirov State University campus and the Republican Museum must be accelerated. Of course, it is necessary not only to fulfill, but to substantially overfulfill the housing construction program.

In Alma-ATa-Leninskiy Electoral Okrug, in particular, 167,000 square meters of housing are to be constructed, together with a school in the "Aksay" development, a kindergarten for 320 children, a laboratory and consumer facilities block at the tea-packing factory, new capacities at the TETS-2, and other facilities.

Comrades! Since the last elections, in the city as a whole more than 6,000 families have moved out of huts and cellars. Party and soviet organs must take all the necessary steps to completely resolve this major task in the very near future.

It is perfectly obvious that the people of Alma-Ata have done a considerable amount of work; in this period they have constructed preschool establishments for 23,500 children. However, the problem of kindergartens and creches remains. This important social question must be completely resolved once and for all before the end of the 5-year plan.

One very important question is that of ensuring clean city air. This topic has been discussed more than once, earnest resolutions have been adopted -- but the improvements, unfortunately,have been minimal. The decisions made concerning these questions must be totally fulfilled, and there is no question of putting it off until later.

Urban transport has many problems; the subway will solve many of them. Soon construction will be entering the practical stage, but the relevant city services should be sorting out the traffic situation right now, particularly in relations to rush-hour traffic; they should follow the example of other cities and use official vehicles to carry passengers and put more effort into developing the streetcar and trolleybus network and strengthening the streetcar and trolleybus pool's material base.

In this connection, one would emphasize that by no means has all the planned work been done, particularly in the development of trolleybus services.

On top of the transport problems, there are problems with heat and power supplies and amenities. The city authorities must make a radical impact on this situation.

There is much to be done in residential areas as well. There is a dire need for a sharp improvement in the work of local consumer services and public catering enterprises, movie theaters, libraries, and parks.

It is time to galvanize the activity of the voluntary people's militia, comrades' courts, crime prevention councils, and street and district committees.

There are vital matters, comrades, which shape the standard of living. Only by common efforts can be exemplary situation be created. There is no alternative.

Comrades! There is another thing I want to talk about. Since the last elections, there has been a marked improvement in medical and trade services for the populace. Sales of foodstuffs and industrial goods have increased by 17 percent. This is a considerable increase.

A lot has been done, but there are many problems in the sphere of health, trade, and consumer services. Suffice it to say that sales of consumers services have increased during the period by only 20 percent -- not exactly an indicator to be envied.

It is time to really tighten control of the services sphere and eradicate any elements of disorder! It is the most immediate duty of party, soviet, and trade union organs, the Komsomol, and the mass media to make Alma-Ata services exemplary.

We must continue to make tireless efforts to improve the activity of all the systems on which the mood, everyday life, and health of the working people and their families depend, and to decisively eliminate all manifestations of bureaucratism and red tape on the part of health, social security, communications, municipal services, or any other establishments.

As your candidate deputy, comrades, I promise you every assistance and support in all these important undertakings. (prolonged applause)

Comrades! We are faced with great and crucial tasks.

We are approaching the elections fully confident, and justifiably so, that life in our country, in our republic, and in each of its 19 oblasts will be even fuller and more attractive.

This is convincing indicated by the targets of the 4th year of the 5-year plan which the entire republic is now assiduously working to fulfill.

I will remind you that we are committed to increasing the republic's national income by 5.4 percent -- and moreover, the entire increase, amounting to over R1 billion, will go toward raising the working people's living standards. An unprecedented amount, comrades.

Industrial and agricultural production volumes are increasing considerably.

Work to improve output quality is being rapidly intensified in the 4th year of the 5-year plan. It has already begun and is in full swing. This year R3.5 billion worth of output bearing the state seal of quality will be manufactured. We will achieve this if everyone raises the standard of his work. No one is permitted to operate at half pace, to lean on others or to dandle.

We will definitely not allow the volume of capital construction including housing construction, to dwindle, and we will be indefatigable in our efforts to improve its quality as well as its consumer amenities and architectural appearance.

In the year of the glorious 30th anniversary of the virgin lands epic we must boost the republic's role as one of the country's major grain and livestock raising centers. It is our direct duty, comrades, to help in every way to ensure the maximum amount of Kazakh grain this year and to provide the country with as much meat, milk, and other agricultural output as possible.

It is important everywhere to fulfill socialist pledges in all sectors of industry, transport, and communications, capital construction, the rural economy, science, and culture, and to fulfill and overfulfill the targets for the 4th year and the 5-year plan as a whole.

As before, a great role is to be played in this by the labor collectives of Alma-Ata, whose contribution to the republic's entire economy is of exceptional importance.

A determined effort must be made to organically combine the advantages of the socialist method of economic management with the best achievements of the scientific and technical revolution. With good reason the CPSU Central Committee address to voters recalls Vladimir Ilich Lenin's words which are particularly topical today: He who has the best equipment, organization, and discipline will prevail.

This applies not only to physical production directly but also to related spheres involved in satisfying the working people's various needs.

It is necessary, therefore, to make greater specific demands on those on whom the practical solution of particular matters depends. It is necessary to keep pace with the rest of the country and not fall behind by even a single step.

The multifaceted activity of the soviets, trade unions, economic organizations, the Komsomol, the mass media, creative unions, and scientific and cultural establishments should be devoted to tasks of further improving the working people's material and spiritual living standard, successfully resolving social problems, rationally utilizing natural resources, and stepping up environmental protection.

Everything that is being done in the republic at the moment is being done for and on behalf of man, in order to assert the spiritual values of the new world, a favorable social climate, and genuine collectivism, and to eradicate resolutely everything that is alien to the socialist way of life, which is incompatible with antisocial phenomena, law violations, and slovenliness.

A common effort is needed to strengthen and develop Soviet democracy, which is, as Aleksey Maksimovich Gorkiy graphically put it, the brightest democracy on earth! It is necessary to continue to enhance the role, responsibility, and authority of the people's elected representatives, the labor activity of the people, and the quality of life of all categories of working people, remembering that no one else is ever going to do this for us!

It is now important to explain the simple and great truth demonstrated convincingly by the entire experience of Soviet society, which is that when people have an in-depth understanding of party policy and perceive it as their own vital cause, so the pace of our progress also increases. "This is why," the CPSU Central Committee address to all voters reemphasizes, "the molding of the new man is not only a major aim but also an indispensable condition of community building.

"In voting for the candidates of the communist and nonparty bloc, you, comrades, will be voting for the flower of the country's spiritual life and for the creation of increasingly favorable conditions for the all-round development of Soviet man."

Comrades! The years since the last elections have been a period of intensive and purposeful efforts by the CPSU and the Soviet Government to preserve and consolidate peace throughout the world.

Progressive mankind fully understands the Soviet Union's foreign policy actions and initiatives and its consistent, peace-loving course. The CPSU Central Committee Politburo is pursuing the line of strengthening peace and international security persistently and fruitfully.

"We support the peaceful resolution of all international disputes by means of serious, equitable, and constructive talks," Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stressed with particular force, stating resolutely that we will not deviate from the peace policy by a single step.

The Soviet Union's aim is clear, comprehensible and immutable -- the struggle for peace and to rid mankind of the threat of world nuclear war.

The Soviet people are well aware of the cost of war. Next year we will be marking the 40th anniversary of the Great Victory which not only elevated our people in the eyes of the whole of mankind but also showed that our most cherished goal is lasting and just peace throughout the world and the prevention of nuclear catastrophe.

This, comrades, is a Leninist goal convincingly confirmed by our Peace Program. We are blazing the trail to this goal under difficult conditions through a screen of lies, slander, and demagoguery elevated by the present U.S. leadership to the rank of state policy.

Our opponents pour out sweet words about their love of peace and then proceed to aim batteries of new nuclear missiles at the Soviet land and work on the tactics of strategy for "hot" wars. But as has already been said, we have strong nerves. We and our allies have something to defend and the means to defend it.

But, comrades, we are threatening no one. This idea has been clearly and repeatedly stressed, and we are stressing it now at the highest and most responsible levels.

Only an incurable paranoiac can talk about the mythical "Soviet threat." The peoples of the world can clearly see who has truth on his side and is stepping up the struggle for peace and social justice. And there is no doubt that the noble cause of peace will triumph. (prolonged applause)

While consistently pursuing a peace-loving foreign policy, our party and government are paying unflagging attention to strengthening the defense might of the country and its heroic Armed Forces. This is also stressed in the CPSU Central Committee address to voters.

Our Red Banner Eastern Border District and Central Asian Military District are resolving a special task. Their personnel are greeting the approaching elections with new achievements in combat and political training and are reliably guarding the socialist fatherland's peaceful labor.

Today, on Soviet Army and Navy Day, we wholeheartedly wish all the motherland's defenders new successes in combat and political training. (prolonged applause)

Comrades! Soviet people will soon be going to the polling places to perform their civic duty and vote for the candidates of the indestructible bloc of Communists and nonparty people. This monolithic unity has a most profound meaning.

The life, desires, and concerns of the people are the life, desires, and concerns of our Leninist party.

The party and the people are united.

They are greeting the elections with a common desire to multiply the successes of our great motherland and of the entire socialist community, to improve the life of every working family, and to make world peace even stronger.

This is our election program.

This is our daily labor for the sake of true happiness.

We have already achieved outstanding results on this path and will undoubtedly achieve still more.

Permit me once more to thank you cordially for the trust placed in me and to assure everyone that I will use all my strength, energy, knowledge, and experience to honorably justify your great confidence which I have treasured and continue to treasure as the main thing in life. (prolonged applause)

Dear comrades, may each of you always enjoy good health and prosperity and the great and unfailing good fortune of being in the front ranks of the creators of the new world and of successfully implementing the majestic designs of the great Lenin's party. (tumultuous, prolonged applause)

ZAGLADIN ON CONTINUITY UNDER ANDROPOV, CHERNENKO

PM092122 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 9 Feb 84 pp 5-6

[Vadim Zagladin article: "Continuity, Innovation, Dynamism"]

[Text] This issue will reach the reader less than a fortnight after the extraordinary plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee convened in February in connection with the grievous loss suffered by our Party, state and the entire Soviet people -- the death of that outstanding, truly Leninist-type eminent party leader and statesman, Yuriy Andropov. Not only the Soviet people, but the widest sections of world opinion joined in bidding him last farewell, paying tribute to him personally and to the policy of our party which he inspired and which was carried out under his direct leadership.

Yuriy Andropov stood at the head of the Central Committee only 15 months. But more was accomplished in these months than during any like span of time in preceding years. Carrying out the decisions of the Party's 26th Congress and the November 1982 and subsequent plenums of the Central Committee, our Party, our entire people, took notable strides ahead.

The statistical summary of this period can be found in the report published by the U.S.S.R. Central Statistical Board on the results of the nation's labours in 1983. It was a year marked by the accelerated development of the country. This applies also to the industrial production growth rate, which exceeded that in the first years of the current five-year plan. What is particularly important to note is that this was achieved to a considerable extent as a result of a more rapid increase of the productivity of labour than previously. And it also applies to agriculture. Despite the unfavourable weather conditions that have plagued us for years, farm output, and especially livestock production, showed a marked increase.

As a result, it was possible to do a good deal last year in the matter of improving the well-being of the Soviet people. The millions who moved into new flats or houses, whose wages or pensions were increased, and who were able to vacation at newly-built sanatoriums or holiday homes can testify to this.

But far from all advances in the life of society can be expressed in figures. This perhaps is particularly true of the past 15 months. For in this period significant changes took place in the psychological atmosphere of our life. This we owe to the collectively elaborated line of the Party, to its initiatives, of which the architect and vigorous proponent was Yuriy Andropov.

We all know that the best ideas of the leadership can yield nothing if they do not have the support of the rank and file. The ideas of the November 1982 and June and December 1983 plenums of the Central Committee enjoyed popular, moreover, unanimous support.

The working people were impressed by the determination to get things done, the more demanding approach, the emphasis on a higher degree of conscientiousness and organization, on the initiative of the masses. The steadfast, consistent realization of the decisions of the 26th Congress and the spirit of innovation which the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, headed by Yuriy Andropov, introduced in this work met with nationwide approbation.

In the past months the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, the Council of Ministers and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. adopted a score of important decisions on fundamental problems, each of which found a response among the masses, inspired them, and showed that the Party was looking ahead and leading the people to new accomplishments.

The Energy Programme and the highly important decision on experiments with the object of improving the system of management and guidance of the economy, the measures to speed up scientific and technological progress and the decision to draw up a programme for the development of consumer goods production and the service sphere, the law on work collectives directed at stimulating the activity of the working people and widening their participation in the management of production and the Central Committee's project for a school reform -- each of these documents will surely go down in the annals of the country as important milestones in its movement forward.

The indestructible unity of the Party and the people was further cemented. The initiatives of the Party became the initiatives of the masses and thereby acquired a new dynamism, a new powerful impact.

The inexorable death wrested from our ranks the man, the remarkable Leninist, who had earned the gratitude and respect of every citizen. Grief engulfed the country.

But while deeply grieving over the loss, the people knew that the party and its leadership would not allow an iota of what had been accomplished to be lost. That the country would continue to forge ahead, giving effect to everything that had been planned. This certainty found convincing confirmation in the decisions of the February Plenum of the Central Committee. It may confidently be said that the plenum gave expression to the most cherished thoughts and feelings of the people. It once again showed how deepseated is the Soviet people's faith in the party.

The February Plenum of the Central Committee solemnly and firmly declared that we shall continue to follow the course laid down by the 26th Congress and the subsequent Central Committee plenums, to the elaboration and development of which Yuriy Andropov contributed so much.

The plenum elected as General Secretary of the Central Committee Konstantin Chernenko, a man widely known, both in our country and beyond its bounds, as a principled, staunch Communist with rich experience in party work and in the administration of affairs of state, as an active, dedicated fighter for the cause of the party and the people, a Bolshevik demanding of himself and of others and endowed with admirable human qualities.

For many years Konstantin Chernenko has played a prominent part in the realization of our most important tasks and made a notable contribution to the life of the party and the nation, thereby earning the recognition and deep respect not only of those who have worked with him or otherwise have come into contact with him, but of the entire party. And abroad too it is conceded (even by people who can by no means be called our friends) that he is a man capable of successfully steering the Leninist course of the CPSU.

Speaking at the February Plenum, General Secretary Chernenko stressed "the importance of keeping up the pace that had been achieved and the general determination to tackle the practical realization of tasks, steadily heightening the level of party and state guidance of the economy, of actively developing positive processes and imparting to them a stable character." In other words, what is in question is the continuation of the line elaborated by the party. For the Communists, this implies not only fulfillment of the decisions taken, but proceeding further, advancing in all areas. Precisely this was the keynote of Konstantin Chernenko's policy statement at the CC Plenum.

In his speech he dwelt not only on the current tasks. He raised new problems as well, looking to the future, to the next five-year plan (1986-90), which is now being drafted. The coming five-year span should primarily mark the beginning of deep-going qualitative changes in production, a decisive turning point in the intensification of all branches of our national economy. At the same time the material and technical base and the system of management should acquire new, more advanced qualities. No less important, Chernenko stressed, is it to link together ever more closely the economic, social and spiritual progress of Soviet society.

These seemingly terse formulas contain momentous meaning. They stand for a new advance all along the line in the perfection of developed socialism, the solution in a new way of the problems that arise. This of course is no easy task. But the experience accumulated by the party, the enthusiasm with which Soviet people have endorsed the decisions of the February Plenum, and the energy of the party leadership headed by Konstantin Chernenko add up to a guarantee of the accomplishment of this task. The next few years will provide the world with further convincing testimony to the vitality and historical advantages of socialism.

Needless to say, the realization of the Party's plans will in many respects depend on what happens in the international arena. Consequently, the foreign policy aspect of our country's activities assume particular importance. In this respect too the February Plenum took a most clear-cut stand.

"The struggle for durable peace and the freedom and independence of the peoples was always in the center of the attention of Yuriy Andropov," Konstantin Chernenko said in his speech. "Under his direction the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and the top bodies of our state shaped an active foreign policy in line with these noble principles, a policy aimed at removing the threat of a world nuclear war hanging over mankind. This Leninist policy of peace, the main features of which at the present historical stage were determined by decisions of the latest congresses of the CPSU, accords with the fundamental interests of the Soviet people, and actually also of the other peoples of the world. And we firmly declare: we shall not deviate by an inch from that policy."

The unswerving attention to problems of foreign policy which has always been an intrinsic feature of our Party has been strikingly manifest since the February Plenum of the Central Committee. Konstantin Chernenko and also Nikolay Tikhonov, Andrey Gromyko and Geydar Aliyev have in this period had no few meetings and talks with many prominent party and government leaders from the socialist, developing and capitalist countries. These meetings have been a major positive significance. They offered an avenue for presenting our viewpoint directly to the top leadership of other countries and for examining many important questions.

An the CC Plenum and also during the above-mentioned talks it was conclusively confirmed that:

-- The policy of the Soviet Union will continue to be directed at preventing nuclear war, strengthening peace, and promoting equal cooperation with all countries and peoples;

-- The U.S.S.R. will continue to strengthen friendship and multiform cooperation with all socialist countries, to improve interaction between the participants in the Warsaw Treaty organization and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance;

-- We shall continue to build solidarity with peoples that have thrown off the colonial yoke and embarked on the road of independent development. And, needless to say, especially with peoples that have been targets of imperialist attacks. Solidarity with these countries is an important contribution to the strengthening of peace;

-- The Soviet Union firmly stands for the observance of the Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence, which is more urgently needed today than ever before. In particular, we want to see relations with the United States based on equality and equal security, mutual respect of the legitimate interests of both sides and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. If the U.S. takes the same approach, the way will be opened to regulating our relations with it;

-- Our country's policy at ending the arms race, the nuclear included, and the reduction of all armaments remains unchanged. The important thing, however, is that effort to this end should be exerted not only by the U.S.S.R. and its allies, but also by the NATO countries;

-- The Soviet Union will continue to do everything necessary to safeguard its own security and the security of its allies and friends.

In the course of the relatively brief meetings with foreign leaders it was of course impossible to discuss in detail the problems touched upon. But these problems were clearly and frankly posed. The conclusion drawn from these meetings everywhere is that the Soviet Union will continue to follow a firm and at the same time constructive line and seek the practical solution of the problems that are poisoning the international atmosphere. The Soviet leadership headed by Konstantin Chernenko will steer the country ship of state with confidence, with unfaltering dedication to peace.

In the sphere of foreign policy too our country will be guided by the decisions of the 26th Congress and the subsequent plenums of the Central Committee of the CPSU, and at the same time search for new approaches according with our principles and the interests of world peace.

The prestige of our policy is growing the world over. This was once again confirmed by the fact that the funeral of Yuriy Andropov was attended by scores of delegations representing most of the countries of the world. Both top statesmen and the leaders of Communist, workers', revolutionary democratic, social democratic and Socialist parties, by their presence and their pronouncements, highlighted the weight carried by our country in international affairs. This fills us with pride in our country, and at the same time it underscores the responsibility that rests upon us.

The course steered by our Party in both domestic and international affairs thus is a continuation of the policy for which Lenin laid the foundation at the time of the October Revolution. While its principles are unchanging and consistent it is constantly being perfected, taking into account the march of developments, the evolution of the situation, the needs of our people and our society. It is this that imparts to the sum total of the activity of the CPSU and the Soviet state the dynamism that enables us to move ever forward, to the achievement of the goals set forth in our programme -- the building of communism ensuring the conditions for the free and all-round development of each individual.

The February Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee inspires us with confidence that these objectives will be reached.

CPSU OFFICIAL ON PARTY WORK, ADMINISTRATIVE GOALS

AU101415 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 8 Mar 84 p 5

[Article by Valentin Nikiforov, deputy head of the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work Department: "The Perfection of Party Work -- An Important Condition of Success"]

[Text] A good working atmosphere: In my opinion, these words best characterize the life of the country of the soviets during the first months of this year. This atmosphere was created by two important events: the CPSU Central Committee session in December 1983, and the session of the USSR's Supreme Soviet which followed it. Both forums discussed the plan for the Soviet Union's economic and social development and the country's budget for 1984, and assessed the preliminary results of economic development last year.

Positive Changes

The party's endeavor, aimed at perfecting the methods of economy, at enhancing organization, and at consolidating state, working and planning discipline, was thoroughly evaluated at the CPSU Central Committee session in the speech prepared by Yuriy Andropov. It stressed that the situation has improved in several national economic sectors in a relatively short period of time.

The initiative and responsibility of cadres have grown, and the working people's activity in implementing the party's economic policy has increased, resulting in a more rapid rate of economic growth. In 1983, the overall volume of industrial production increased 4 percent, compared with 2.9 percent in 1982. The effectiveness of production increased 3.5 percent, thus also surpassing the average indices of the 2 preceding years; and the productivity of social work also increased. Positive changes were noted in the national economy as a whole.

What is particularly important is that the remarkably improved results mentioned above were not achieved by increased investment means or by the use of other human or material resources. Only those reserves were mobilized which were, so to speak, within easy reach; and organizational standards, discipline, and order were improved. A great role was played in the mobilization and utilization of reserves by the party's enhanced influence among the working collectives. "The gigantic tasks that the party must resolve," the Andropov speech states, "demand a further enhancement of the party's leading role. For this reason, the party must constantly perfect the forms and methods of its own work." In this activity, the party must consider the peculiar features of the current phase of the Soviet society's development.

Both Dynamics and Increased Scope

In keeping with the economic strategy worked out by the party for the current 10-year period, there is a trend in the USSR toward broader and more efficacious utilization of qualitative factors in the development of production. Our decisive sphere of human life, the economy, is both dynamic and growing in scope. The Soviet Union's economic strength has achieved standards that are capable of raising the value of basic production assets by almost $70 billion annually; this equals the value of the total of all basic production assets created during the first 23 years of Soviet power. The scope of industrial production has increased enormously. If, for instance, a 1 percent increase was formerly equal to the production of various products worth R2 billion, then this year this 1 percent "weighs" 3.5 times as much; namely, more than R7 billion.

Under these conditions, increased demands are placed on the CPSU as the leading and directing force of Soviet society and as the core of its political system from the perspective of the standards of its management of the national economy and of the results of the party organizations' work. It thus follows that it is imperative to harmonize the CPSU's activity with the new tasks and to fill it with new contents. In the endeavor to achieve this, during the 3 years which have passed since the 26th CPSU Congress, the Central Committee has adopted several important measures for strengthening the party's political, theoretical, organizational, and ideoeducational activity.

On All Levels

Naturally, the successful advance of Soviet society is influenced by many factors. However, as was stressed by Yu.V. Andropov at the CPSU Central Committee's session in November 1982, this progress primarily depends on the purposeful collective work of the party's Central Committee and on the ability of its members to concentrate the activity of party, state, and economic bodies and all working collectives on the key directions of national economic development. Such an approach is fully supported by all Soviet communists. The materials of Central Committee sessions, the Central Committee resolutions, and other party documents are permeated by concern for improving work in the decisive sectors. Typical of all these materials is the scientifically-based, comprehensive approach to the solution of problems, as well as the endeavor to perfect party work on all its levels, from basic organizations to local party bodies.

The Central Committee is devoting extraordinary attention to enhancing the role and influence of basic party organizations among working collectives. The basic organizations represent the party's foundations; they implement the party's policy among the masses. Since the 26th CPSU Congress, the party's membership has increased by almost a million -- to 18,357,000. The number of basic party organizations increased during the same period by 16,000, so that today the USSR has 430,000 such organizations. Far more workshop party organizations and party groups are in operation than ever before. There are 1,750,000 such basic CPSU units. Today there is not one even slightly significant sector in the sphere of services and national economic management that does not have an organized party collective.

The CPSU Central Committee assessed the activity of many basic party organizations to precisely formulate on this basis the main directions of the activity of lower party links in fulfilling the tasks of the present 5-year plan. Recently it submitted to a thorough analysis the activity of communists in the Path of Communism Collective Farm in Kustanay Oblast of the Kazakh SSR; in the Dneproshina Production Association in the Ukrainian SSR; as well as in the Belorussian State Academic Theater. The adopted resolutions have helped the basic organizations in industry, agriculture, and culture acquire a better understanding of the current tasks and of the methods, forms, and ways of strengthening party influence among the working collectives.

Experience, the Property of the Entire Party

An important place in the life of the party and of its basic units is held by the All-Union Scientific-Practical Conference, which was convened last year and dealt with the work of basic party organizations. This representative forum discussed the theoretical and practical aspects of the problems which are topical for the entire party and which are connected with the enhancement of the role played by basic party organizations in the development of the working people's social and production activity and with the consolidation of discipline and the perfection of the style of work. The conference summarized all that is most valuable in the experience of local organizations; and the conclusions reached by the conference have become the property of the entire party.

To raise the standards of political management and to perfect the style of party work -- that was one of the most important tasks in preparing and carrying out the recent annual member meetings of the CPSU's basic organizations. The campaign lasted for all of 6 months, ending last January. As was demanded by the Central Committee, the communists submitted to a deep and self-critical analysis the work accomplished in all spheres of the Soviet society's life; they uncovered shortcomings and worked out concrete measures for removing them. At meetings and conferences, more than 1.5 million suggestions and proposals were voiced which are now being considered and implemented by the party organizations.

The CPSU Central Committee is exerting considerable efforts to imbue the activities of party, state, and economic bodies with a businesslike style of work, to diminish the number of conferences and sessions, and to concentrate all organizational work directly in the lower party links where it can be accomplished by the working collectives. In this sense, the Central Committee is demanding that the local party bodies thoroughly improve their style of work. This idea in particular permeates the resolution recently adopted in connection with the report on the activities of the Moldavian Communist Party's Central Committee; the report speaks of improving the style and methods of activity in party organizations from the perspective of the resolution adopted by the CPSU Central Committee's session in November 1982. This resolution is, in a way, unique in many years. The directives contained in it will constitute a reliable point of orientation for the activities of all local party organizations.

OFFICIAL ON INTERNAL TELEVISION COMMUNICATIONS

LD091304 Moscow GOVORIT I POKAZYVAYET MOSKVA in Russian 5 Mar 84 p 19

[Interview with Gennadiy Georgiyevich Kudryavtsev, first deputy minister of communications, by GOVORIT I POKAZYVAYET MOSKVA correspondent B. Fomin, based on letters from the magazine's readers]

[Text] [Fomin] Gennadiy Georgiyevich, before I ask you what communications workers will do in 1984, I would like to give our readers some general information. In particular, I would like to give them some impression of the complex of technical equipment used to ensure television broadcasting to the whole country. Such a request is contained in letters from our new subscribers K.Ye. Yevstratov from Perm Oblast, V.I. Zasukhin from Chita, and V.G. Rashko from Alma-Ata, and so forth.

[Kudryavtsev] Television equipment today is a very complicated, interlinked complex of technical equipment, used in the first place to create television programs, second to broadcast them over long distances and relay them, and third to receive them on domestic television receivers. As is known, television programs are created by the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting (including the television and radio broadcasting committees of the union and autonomous republics, krays, and oblasts of the country); the reception network (installation and maintenance of collective television aerials and repair of television sets) is within the competence of the Ministries of Consumer Services of the republics; and the "delivery" of television signals from Moscow to the towns and settlements of all republics, krays, and oblasts of our boundless country (and frequently to other countries and continents) -- that is our duty as communications workers. In other words, within the competence of the USSR Ministry of Communications and the Ministries of Communications of the union republics are hundreds of thousands of microwave, cable, and satellite communications channels and a whole broadcasting network consisting of almost 500 powerful stations, over 4,800 low power stations, 90 Orbita satellite communication stations and over 2,600 Ekran and Moskva stations.

[Fomin] Our country extends through 11 time zones from west to east. How is the start and finish of television broadcasts linked to zonal time?

[Kudryavtsev] It was with this aim that in October 1980 five-zone television broadcasting was introduced in our country. Each zone embraces two time zones (apart from the most easterly one, which includes three time zones).

In the first zone (the European part of the USSR) the main means of "delivering" programs of central television to republic, kray, and oblast centers are the main communication lines of the surface network. I have in mind microwave and cable lines. Microwave lines form the major part of the surface lines. They form a network of receiving and transmitting stations located at a distance of 30-50 km from each other. Certain points in this zone receive television programs via satellite communication channels. Television viewers living in the European part of the country can watch broadcasts of the first and second all-union programs, just as the people of Moscow do, with no time shift.

Apart from this zone, there are four other television broadcasting zones, and for each one central television broadcasts the first program via separate retransmitters installed on artificial earth satellites. An exception to this is the Orbita-4-Vostok program, which is broadcast both via space and, to a number of regions, by microwave lines.

[Fomin] Gennadiy Georgiyevich, will you please tell us briefly about the satellite communication systems, when they were set up, and the advantages and characteristics of each of them.

[Kudryavtsev] Television broadcasting with the aid of satellites is carried out by the Orbita, Ekran and Moskva satellite communications system.

The Orbita system has been operating since 1965 and, by the 50th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, 20 satellite communications receiving stations had been put into use. Molniya communication satellites, which moved in space along extended elliptical orbits, were then used to retransmit the television signal. Now the Orbita system is served by Raduga and Gorizont satellites as well as Molniya satellites. The Raduga and Gorizont satellites are placed in what are known as stationary orbits. They rotate in the plane of the equator at a height of about 36,000 km and complete one full orbit around the earth every 24 hours; thanks to this, to the observer on earth they seem to hang motionless above a set point of the equator. That is why such satellites are called stationary.

The creation of the Ekran satellite system was a new stage in the development of television broadcasting.

Using stationary satellites for television broadcasting purposes and equipping them with more powerful transmitters has permitted a considerable simplification of the reception apparatus on earth and a reduction in its cost.

The Ekran system is intended to work only in regions of Siberia. The point is that the high level of the signal in its reception zone could cause considerable interference to surface communications, and a displacement of this zone to the west or east of the country could lead to similar interference on the territory of neighboring states.

Taking account of this, Soviet specialists worked out and put into operation yet another satellite broadcasting system, the Moskva, which uses Gorizont stationary satellites. The broadcasting equipment of the earth station which sends the signal towards this satellite is similar to that used in the Ekran system. The transmitter on board the Gorizont satellite also transforms the signal received from earth, intensifies it and relays it to the earth. There is, installed on the Gorizont, a transmitter of increased power with an aerial which relays the signal toward the earth in a narrow beam. The level of this signal is sufficient for comparatively simple receiving apparatus to be used.

Relaying of the second all-union television program was introduced from 1 January 1982. At present it can be received not only in the European part of the country, but, with a time shift, in many populated points of a further three zones embracing territory in eight time zones. These include the Urals, Central Asia, Western and Eastern Siberia, and some of the regions of the Far East. The second program is broadcast to these regions via satellite communication channels.

[Fomin] A group of readers from Elista, Kalmyk ASSR, labor veteran K. Ye Stepashov from Magadan, and others ask in their letters what is being done now to increase the proportion of the population that can receive two television programs.

[Kudryavtsev] To supply a television program to some zone or other is very important, but it is only half of the matter. It is also necessary that as large a number as possible of the inhabitants of that region are able to watch it. And for this, a network of reception and transmission stations is needed.

In the years preceding the 11th 5-Year Plan, main attention was paid to expanding the geography of reception of the first all-union television program. By the beginning of 1984, reliable reception of the first program of central television had been provided to areas of the country where about 90 percent of the population lives.

Last year, 1983, television came to new and remote populated points, and there was an increase in the number of families that could watch 2 or more television programs. During that year, 13 new powerful television stations, over 700 low-power stations, including 600 Ekran and Moskva satellite communications receiving stations, were put into use. These quite considerable technical resources, I repeat, were used both for television coverage -- that is, for the introduction of single-program broadcasting to new regions of the country -- and to provide additional programs.

Among viewers who are able to watch at least two television programs, we distinguish two groups, depending on where these programs come from on their way to the domestic television receivers. The first group are viewers who receive two or more programs, of which one is the first all-union program and the second can be the republic, the oblast, or the second all-union.

In 1983, apparatus was introduced to provide multiprogram television broadcasting in 27 cities of the country. These include Inta and Ust-Kulom in Komi ASSR, Yakutsk and Neryungri in Yakutsk ASSR; Balakovo in Saratov Oblast; Maykop, Vyborg, Voronezh, and also a number of points in the Ukraine, in Kazakhstan, Belorussia, Uzbekistan, Moldavia, and other republics.

The inhabitants of Vitebsk and Norilsk, among other towns, were able to watch three television programs.

The plans for the 11th 5-Year Plan envisage further developments of multiprogram television broadcasting.

Last year work was continued on the further expansion of relays of the second program of central television; in particular the possibility of receiving it was provided in the fourth time zone with a time shift of plus six and plus seven hours.

Today almost a half the population of the USSR can watch two central television programs. In 1984 it is intended to introduce two-program broadcasting in 26 towns of the country, including broadcasting of central television's second program in the towns of Velsk, Arkhangelsk Oblast, Usogorsk, Komi ASSR, Skovorodina, Amur Oblast, Ulan-Khol, Kalmyk ASSR, and so forth. At the end of 1984, and the beginning of 1985, it is planned to organize five-zone broadcasting of central television's second program -- that is, to give the Far East territory, including Kamchatka and Sakhalin, a chance to receive it.

By the end of the 11th five-year period, 92 percent of the USSR's population will be able to watch the first all-union television program and 60 percent will be able to watch the second.

I would like to stress that with every year an increase in the television viewing audience of even one or two percent becomes more and more difficult. This is simply explained: In virtually all towns and in a great many settlements and villages the inhabitants are already watching television programs. As yet there is no television in the small settlements in the north of the country, in Siberia, in the Far East, in several mountain hamlets -- in a word, in the outback and beyond. But in these places far away from the cultural centers television is particularly necessary, and now everything possible is being done to reduce the number of these blank spots. And although thousands of low-capacity stations are being commissioned every year, the percentage growth rate of television viewers is not as impressive as before. However, I repeat, behind the scenes lies a great deal of work by a number of industrial branches, local organs, and communications workers.

[Fomin] In connection with what you have said just now, Gennadiy Georgiyevich, I would like to reply to a question from the Oleynikovyy family in Zaporozhye. In their letter the parents write that one son works on the BAM [Baykal-Amur mainline] and the other is preparing to go to Tyumen Oblast, to a settlement where maintenance workers for the Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhgorod gas pipeline work. Their question is: How do things stand concerning television relays to such long construction projects as the BAM or gas pipelines?

[Kudryavtsev] Practice has shown that the timely organization of television broadcasting in regions where major projects are being carried out in unpopulated areas (the BAM, Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhgorod gas pipeline) is of enormous importance in attracting specialists of various branches and creating pleasant conditions for work. For this reason the communications workers can quite justifiably be called the pioneers, together with the geological prospectors and the other prospectors.

Work on the organization of television broadcasting on the BAM railway was carried out by communications workers from the Irkutsk, Chita, and Amur Oblasts, the Buryat and Yakutsk ASSRs; and Khabarovsk Kray. At present virtually all the settlements along the mainline track can receive one or two television programs.

A great deal of work is being carried out by the communications workers of Tyumen Oblast in organizing television broadcasting both throughout the oblast as a whole and in the region of the Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhgorod gas pipeline, The organization of television broadcasting has been carried out parallel with the progress of construction on the gas pipeline. Ekran receiving stations have been installed in the settlements of Yagelnyy, Priozernyy, Sosnovskiy, Kazymskiy, Bobrovskiy, and a number of others.

The time of broadcasting television programs which are carried on the Ekran system does not yet, unfortunately, correspond to the zone time of Tyumen Oblast. With the imminent commissioning of the Urengoy-Uzhgorod radio relay line the Ekran equipment will be replaced and the possibility of broadcasting two television programs at a time convenient to the viewers will be ensured.

[Fomin] In the week's mail there are some letters in which television viewers write that they have to watch television programs at inconvenient times, either too late or too early. Why does this happen?

[Kudryavtsev] Under the five-zone television broadcasting system the "double" of the Moscow program, first or second, is transmitted to the territory of two time zones. The difference in the time of receiving transmissions within one such zone is equal to one hour. This, as can be judged from viewer polls, is acceptable. However, in a number of places the situation arises whereby the television transmitter or relay station is situated in one zone, or more exactly, not far from the border of the zone, and its signals are received by television viewers in the neighboring zone. As a result of this, the time shift turns out to be twice as great, which is not quite convenient. The way out is clear: We have to set up in the neighboring zone its own station to relay the television signal arriving from the satellite for this zone. We know these spots are trying to resolve the problem; the speed at which we resolve it depends on a number of factors, including the necessary funds.

Inconvenient times for receiving transmissions can also be caused by the following: the Ekran system is meant to provide television signals to settlements in regions which have a time difference of plus four and plus five hours in comparison with Moscow time, but in practice the television signals from this satellite can be received on a territory ranging from plus three to plus seven time zones.

In a number of places in this enormous territory it is necessary to place receiving stations of the Ekran system because for the moment it is impossible to relay "their own" program in these places. The situation is forced upon us and for the time being we have to reconcile ourselves to it.

SATELLITE LAUNCHED 10 MARCH FUNCTIONING NORMALLY

LD111151 Moscow TASS in English 1145 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS -- Another artificial satellite of the earth in the "Cosmos" series, the "Cosmos-1543", was launched in the Soviet Union on March 10, 1984. The satellite carries scientific apparatus which is intended to carry on the exploration of outer space.

The satellite was put into orbit with the following parameters: initial orbital period -- 90.6 minutes, the maximum distance from the earth's surface (in apogee) -- 416 kilometres, the minimum distance from the Earth's surface (in perigee) -- 224 km, and orbital inclination -- 62.8 degrees.

Apart from scientific apparatus, the satellite carries a radio system for the precision measurement of orbital elements, and a radio telemetric system to transmit back to Earth the data on the operation of instruments and scientific apparatus.

The on-board apparatus is functioning normally. The coordination computing centre is processing the incoming information.